

November 1983, 80p



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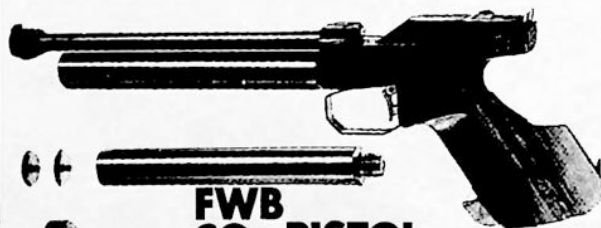


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AGW 11/83

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WEINRAUCHS	Piston ass complete	U
HW35, HW35E, HW80	Piston head unit	H
35 Standard stock	Main spring	M
35 Export stock	Pr 1" tube scope mnts	P
35 Export stock w/h	Pr recoil arrest blocks	N
80 stock w/h	One piece scope mount	N
80 stock w/h	with recoil arrest lug side	N
Rubber recoil pad	clamp 1" (Rhino)	E24
Pair sling swivels	1.1mm diopter foresight	N
D/Luxe det swivels	for mounting to above with	N
Black nylon web belt	foresight raising block for	N
Leather carry sling	right/left hand	E9
D/L leather sling	Complete ass	E29
Pr front stock screws		H
Front stock bolt(35)		C
Cylinder unit only		E39
Cylinder end block		E19
Trigger guard		C
Front guard screw		C
Rear guard screw		C
Trigger assembly		E26
Tr ass retaining pins		N
Trigger		N
Trigger pressure screw		N
Pr screw lock-nut		N
Trigger pressure spring		N
Safety catch & spr		F
35E plastic grip cap		C
Diopter foresight		E48
Rubber eyecup		N
Rearsight as fitted		E1650
Rearsight w/heel		C
Rearsight ret screw		B
Windage adj screw		D
Foreshot as fitted		Z
Flight & Eagle eye		E29
Any sight element		B
35 Std barrel only		E22
35E barrel only		E29
80 barrel only		E29
Barrel latch & spr		P
Cocking link assembly		P
Cocking link pin		B
80 Piston slide		F
80 Barrel latch & pin		N
Breech seal		B
Barrel axis bolt		H
Pair axis bolt shims		V
Piston head unit		M
Main spring		N
Main spring guide		K
Pr 1" tube scope mnts		P
Pr recoil arrest blocks		N
One piece scope mount		N
with recoil arrest lug side		N
clamp 1" (Rhino)		E24
1.1mm diopter foresight		N
for mounting to above with		N
foresight raising block for		N
right/left hand		E9
Complete ass		E29
HW70 PISTOL		
PLEASE ENQUIRE		
FEINWERKBAU		
Sport		
Luxury stock w/h		E55
Luxury stock w/h		E55
Standard stock		E38
Bun plate & screws		D
Plastic grip cap		D
Pr front stock screws		K
Front sling swivel		L
Rear sling swivel		L
D/Luxe det swivels		U
Black nylon web belt		N
Leather carry sling		N
D/Luxe leather sling		N
Trigger housing		W
Trigger inc adj screw		L
Trigger spring		C
Sear		F
Sear spring		C
Sent		C
Safety catch		K
Safety catch spring		C
Trigger guard		K
Front guard screw		C
Rear guard screw		B
Main body cyl		E35
Cyl to stock lug		J
Diopter foresight		E38
Rubber eyecup		V
Rearsight as fitted		B
Rearsight ret screw		B
Foreshot as fitted		S
Rearsight as fitted		C
Any sight element		B
Barrel only		E49
Barrel latch spr & ball		J
Breech seal		B
Barrel axis bolt		K
Axis bolt shim		B
Cocking link ass		L
Piston slide		H

Trigger guard & screw	J	For mounting to above
Fore-end stock screws	C	with foresight raising
Cylinder only	C	block, for right/left hand
Cylinder end cap	C	E29
Cocking link assembly	N	Complete assembly
Trigger mechanism	N	
Barrel only	Z	
Barrel latch & spr	C	
Barrel axis pin	C	
Barrel latch pin	C	
Breech seal	B	
Piston ass complete	C	
Piston head unit	L	
Piston ring only	B	
Rearsight as fitted	P	
Foreshot as fitted	L	
Foreshot guard	E	
Main spring	K	
Main spring guide	H	
M spring retaining pin	F	
Recoil pad	L	
D/L sling swivels	U	
Leather carry sling	M	
Black nylon web belt	N	
D/L leather sling	Q	
Pr 1" tube scope mnts	P	
CLUB & EARLY AIRSPORTER		
Dovetail foresight	O	
Foreshot blades	N	
Foreshot blade screw	A	
Foreshot protector	N	
Mk. I rearsight ass pillar	type	E1875
Mk. II rearsight ass (folding type)	type	E1800
Loading tap 22	W	
Load tap index plate	O	
Load tap ball spring	G	
Sear Mk. I & II	W	
Sear Mk. III & IV	W	
Trig/sear spr Mk. I/II	W	
Trig/sear pawl Mk. I	W	
Sear connect Mk. I/II	M	
Cock lever thumb piece	N	
Thumb piece spring	K	
Fr stock nut/bolt Mk. I	K	
Fr stock screw Mk. II	K	
Front support Mk. VII	N	
Piston complete Mk. II	W	
Piston rod nut Mk. I	K	
Piston washer Mk. VII	N	
Washer spacer Mk. I & II	N	
Nylon plunger piston head with 'O' ring for Mk. I & II	M	
LATER MERCURY & AIRSPORTERS		
Mercury stock	E26	
Mercury S stock	E39	
Airsport stock	E25	
Airsport S stock	E35	
Stock bolt & washer	E	
Pr fr stock screws	C	
Mercury cock link ass	N	
Airsport underlever	S	
Underlever thumb catch	K	
Thumb catch spring	E	
Airsp. cocking slide	P	
Airsp. cocking link	B	
Slide support bracket	E	
Support bracket stud	E	
Trigger housing	E19	
Trigger mechanism	E25	
Housing & mechanism	E25	
Mercury barrel only	E17	
Mercury S barrel	E19	
Piston ass complete	V	
Piston head unit (cal)	L	
Conical conv unit	M	
Piston ring only	B	
Pellet deliv ass	P	
PeL del lever only	F	
Barrel axis pin Merc	H	
Barrel latch and spring	H	
Merc S axis bolt ass	F	
Rearsight as fitted	L	
Foreshot as fitted	L	
Main spring	L	
Main spring guide	H	
D/L sling swivels	U	
Leather carry sling	M	
Black nylon web belt	N	
D/L leather sling	Q	
Pr 1" tube scope mnts	P	
Pr recoil arrest blocks	N	
One piece scope mount with recoil arrest lug side clamp 1" tube (Rhino)	E24	
1.1mm diopter rearsight	N	
	</	

Trig/sear unit complete	
Trigger sear spring	C
Trig adj/scl/lock nut	C
Trigger guard	Q
Guard screws per pair	J
Trig/sear axis pin	G
Piston/washer leather	N
Pwasher nut & washer	B
Foreshot Narrow d tail	Q
Trig/sear wide d tail	Q
Rearsight ass	E1875
Rearsight leaf only	O
Rearsight/elect screw	N
Cock lever axis pin	G
Cock lever catch block	N
Hvy duty m spring	177
mod/pairs flat section	
Hvy duty m spring 22 mod	
pairs round section	
Mouth other companies	
as BSA Standard Model	
LIGHT OR LADIES	
PATTERN (L PREFIX)	
Standard or Improved	
Model D	
l Pattern mainspring 3	
coil flat section	
SCORPION/BUCC	
Scorpion stock	
pistol grip cap	
Buccaneer stock	E29
Cocking ad	
Cocking lever ass	
Safety lever only	
Cocking link ass	
Trig housing/mech	
Piston ass complete	
Piston head unit	
Barrel only	E1875
Barrel axis pin	
Barrel latch b spr	
Breech seal	
Rearsight as fitted	
Foreshot as fitted	
Fore end guard	
Mainspring	
Mainspring guide	
Mainspring ret pin	
LINCOLN & LINCOLN	
JEFFREYS MODELS	
Most components as	
Standard. L pattern	
Improved Model	
Link fiding tap screw/peg	
Pr of m m springs 22	
Pr of m m springs 177	
Single flat m spring	177
WEBLEYS	
MK. II SERVICE	
Hvy duty sil chrome	
Piston ring plz bronze	
Raight clmp	E1875
MK. III UNDERLEV	
Walnut stock	E
D/L det swivels	
Leather carry sling	
D/L leather sling	
Pr front stock screws	
Loading tap lever	
Load tap lvr screw	
Load tap spr & ball	
Rear stock screw	
Rear stock guard	
Rear guard screw	
Pr fixing plate screws	
Rearsight as fitted	
Foreshot as fitted	
Foreshot guard	
Underlever	
U/l lever thumbcatch	
Thumbcatch spring	
U/l lever axis bolt	
Axis bolt lock screw	
Cocking lever	
Pr of m m springs 22	
Pair sideplate screws	
Piston head unit	
Mainspring	
Mainspring guide	
Trigger	
Trigger/Sear spring	
Sear	
Sear axis pin	
Trigger adj screw	



E29 Obsolete Webley Super target rearsight incl base mount & 6-hole eyespie (original)

Fr stock screws	G
Barrel latch & spring	K
Barrel axis bolt	H
Front guard screw	C
Rearsight only	K
HAWKS (see model)	
2/3 safety catch	J
2/3 trigger guard	D
2/3 fr guard screw	D
2/3 fr guard screw	A
2/3 fr stock screws	G
2/3 sear	K
2/3 trigger	L
2/3 trigger adj screw	B
2/3 trigger spring	B
2/3 trigger pin set	B
2/3 piston unit	V
2/3 piston rings	M
2/3 rearsight ass	T
2/3 foresight unit	M
2/3 foresight guard	B
2/3 foresight screw	B
2/3 barrel axis pin	C
2/3 barrel stop pin	L
2/3 mainspring	L
2/3 cocking link ass	M
2/3 barrel only 177	E17
2/3 barrel only 177/22	E17
2/3 trigger assembly	M
2/3 trigger spring	K
2/3 stock only	E19
2/3 trigger housing	K
2/3 barrel latch & spr	F
2/3 foresight	K
2/3 rearsight ass	P
2/3 barrel	E19
2/3 trigger assembly	M
2/3 trigger assembly	E24
2/3 trigger spring	K
2/3 stock only	E19
2/3 trigger housing	K
2/3 barrel latch & spr	F
2/3 foresight	X
2/3 rearsight ass	P
2/3 barrel only	E26
2/3 foresight	P
2/3/35/50 sight	E17
35 stock only	E44
35 stock only	E59
50 underlever	X
50 cocking lever	O
50 c lever axis bolt	K
50 c lever catch	L
STERLING AR81	
Stock only	E29
Pr front stock screws	C
Trig guard	B
Front guard screw	G
Rear guard screw	B
Trigger	P
Sear	K
Trigger pin	A
Cear pin	A
Main cylinder body	E39
Main spring	L
Main spring guide	K
Piston ass complete	E18
Piston only	Z
Piston head unit	M
Rearsight assembly	S
Foreshot assembly	X
Under lever	V
Cocking lever	M
SPECIALIST BOOKS	
Smith's Encyclopaedia	X
Gas/Air Spring Guns	X
Airgun Book, 2nd Edit.	V
Modern Airweapon	M
Shooting Churchill	S
Air Pistols: Hiller	O
Air Rifles: Hiller	O
Airguns & Airpistols	S
BADGES	
Anschutz	J
B.S.A. sml. or large	H
Feinwerkbau	K
Original	J
Webley	K
Wehrbach (adhesive)	H
Rifle	H
Pistol	H
FOR MORE SPECIFIC PARTS PLEASE WRITE OR PHONE	
SEND LG SAE + 60p	
FOR EXPL. DIAGRAM	
OF YOUR AIRWEAPON	
ORIGINALS	
Wooden stock	P.O.A.
Pr front stock screws	F
Trigger guard	K
Front guard screw	E
Rear guard screw	C
Front stock screw	C
Rearsight as fitted	T
Foreshot as fitted	G
Piston complete	S
2 piston rings	M
Main spring	L
Main spring buffers	D
JAGUAR	
Rearsight as fitted	P
Foreshot as fitted	B
Piston complete	S
Trigger pivot screw	E
Barrel only	E16
Cocking link	U
Piston complete	U
Piston washer unit	L
Main spring	L
Main spring guide	G
Trig guard	O
Trig spring	B
Trig guard	H
Rear guard screw	B
Fore end stock screws	F
Barrel latch & spring	N
Breech seal	B
Barrel axis pin	C
FALCON	
Main spring	K

(Price codes) A=70 B=90 C=120 D=125 E=130 F=140 G=150 H=190 J=250 K=290 L=350 M=395 N=480 O=595 P=680 Q=790 R=820 S=890 T=950 U=995 V=1050 W=1200 X=1390 Y=1400 Z=1500

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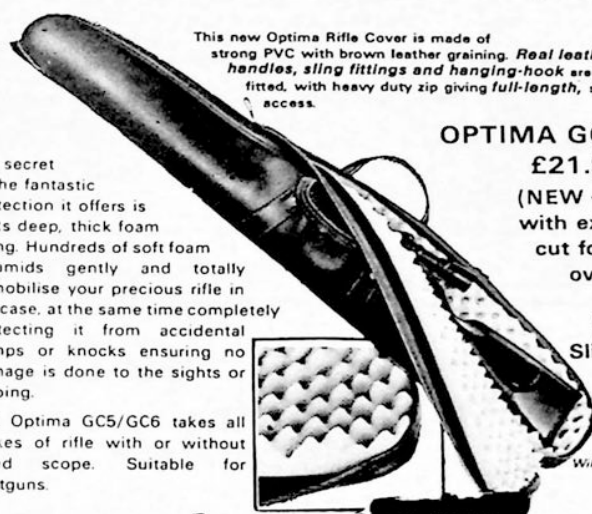
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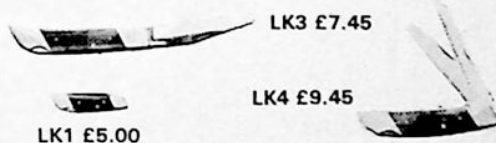
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LK3	5 1/2 oz	5 1/4"	3 1/4"	1/2"	—
LK4	6 1/2 oz	5 1/4"	3 1/4"	1/2"	3 1/2"

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State which with order.

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Note: Prices shown are for scope only and do not include mounts.

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to OUR specifications

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SCOPE SPECIFICATIONS

Model No	Power x Obj. Aperture	Field of View at 100 yds (ft)	Luminosity	Eye Relief (inches)	Tube Diameter (inches)	Type of Adjustment (Clicks/mm)	Length (inches)	Weight (lb/oz)	Lenses (pieces)
432W	Wide Field 4 x 32	37	64.0	3.3	1	1/4	11.8	10.5	9
440W	Wide Field 4 x 40	37	100.0	3.8	1	1/4	12.4	12.0	9
Z40W	Wide Field 3.9 x 40	42-14	177.8-19.7	3.1-2.5	1	1/4	12.9	13.4	10
Z45	3.9 x 45	37-13	225-25	3.7-2.9	1	1/4	12.8	15.8	10
Z56	3.9 x 56	35-12	348.4-38.7	3.8-3	1	1/4	13.6	26.0	10

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THIS IS THE FABULOUS Moonlighter™ the ideal scope for night-and-day

If you enjoy shooting at dusk, by moonlight or just before the sun comes up when you have to make the most of what light there is, this is the scope for you. The massive 45mm objective lens gathers and captures the light. It is 26.5% bigger than the 40mm objective lens. The special multi-coating of the lens minimises light reflection and maximises light passing through, funneling it into a standard field of view allowing the use of normal magnifications without excessive degrading of the image. Special satin-black anodised finish to eliminate give-away reflection. Equally suitable for day use, but full benefits are obviously only evident in poor light conditions.

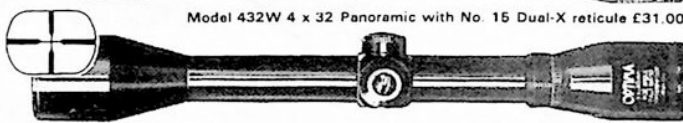
And the now equally renowned Super Moonlighter®

As close as you can come to a night-sight without a light intensification or infra-red device. If there is any light around, the massive 56mm lens will capture it (it's over 3 times the area of a 32mm lens). The superb optics with special lens multi-coating will concentrate it and funnel it into your vision, and there's enough light captured to spread up to the full X 9 magnification and still give you a pupil-ful of image on maximum dilation on a moonlit night.

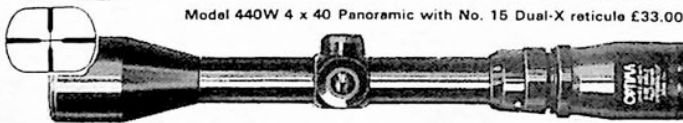
Nobody other than Optima can bring you anything else approaching this combination of lens size and quality of optical resolution at anything approaching the price.



Model 432W 4 x 32 Panoramic with No. 15 Dual-X reticle £31.00



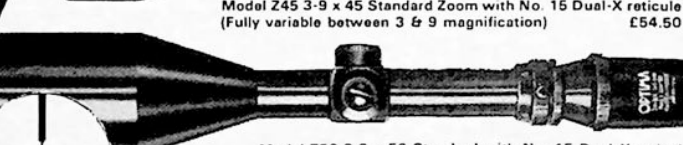
Model 440W 4 x 40 Panoramic with No. 15 Dual-X reticle £33.00



Model Z40W 3.9 x 40 Panoramic Zoom with No. 15 Dual-X reticle (Fully variable between 3 & 9 magnification) £45.00



Model Z45 3.9 x 45 Standard Zoom with No. 15 Dual-X reticle (Fully variable between 3 & 9 magnification) £54.50



Model Z56 3.9 x 56 Standard with No. 15 Dual X-reticle (Fully variable between 3 & 9 magnification) £71.50

Models Z45 and Z56 are available with simple parallax-adjustment (range), a valuable extra-spec for the serious shooter. ONLY £5.00 extra — State which model required.

OPTIMA NON-CREEP MOUNTS

Made to our specification, these are high quality, heavy-duty detachable mounts designed to fit slide-on gun rails. Made from diecast aluminium alloy and precision machined with hard black anodised finish. Split ring 'roll-off' design enables scope to be removed without disturbing zeroing. High profile means back sight need not be removed. Four-screw two ring fitting clamps scope securely. All take 1" tube only.

STANDARD

(for use with scopes up to x 40mm objective lens)

Supplied in three sizes

Mod 9 — Fits 9mm + gun rails £6.50 pr

Mod 11 — Fits 11mm + gun rails £6.50 pr

Mod 12 — Fits 12mm + gun rails £6.50 pr

For Weihrauch Rifles there are two special models

Mod 9R — Comp. with retaining pin. Fits 9mm gun rails

£7.65 pr

Mod 12R — Comp. with retaining pin. Fits 12mm gun rails

£7.65 pr



Model 12R

HIGH ELEVATION

For scopes over x 40mm objective lens e.g. Moonlighter

Mod 9H — Fits 9mm + gun rails £7.25 pr

Mod 11H — Fits 11mm + gun rails £7.25 pr

Mod 12H — Fits 12mm + gun rails £7.25 pr

For Weihrauch Rifles there are two special models

Mod 9HR — Comp. with retaining pin. Fits 9mm gun rails

£8.25 pr

Mod 12HR — Comp. with retaining pin. Fits 12mm gun rails

£8.25 pr



Model 11H

EXTRA HIGH ELEVATION

(See-through type)

For scopes over x 45mm objective lens e.g. Super Moonlighter

Mod 9XH — Fits 9mm + gun rails £7.50 pr

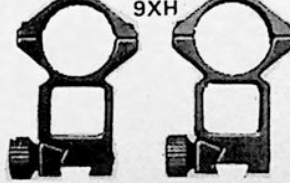
Mod 11XH — Fits 11mm + gun rails £7.50 pr

For Weihrauch Rifles there are two special models

Mod 9XHR — Comp. with retaining pin. Fits 9mm gun rails £8.75 pr

Mod 12XHR — Comp. with retaining pin. Fits 12mm gun rails

£8.75 pr



Model 9XH

We offer a Professional Mail Order only service. All fully guaranteed. Prices fully inclusive. Full refund if not delighted upon receipt. For immediate despatch send cheque/POs with order to Dept AGW 11/83

OPTIMA LEISURE PRODUCTS Ltd GILNOW MILL, SPA ROAD, BOLTON, LANCs BL1 4LF. Tel: (0204) 386899. Telex 63114

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FIRST****OPTIMA****QUALITY
FIRST****OPTIMA**

START AT THE TOP! It's the cheapest in the long run and you get the most enjoyment from your sport right from the very start.

Inferior products give inferior results — if you're any good with a gun you'll *never* be satisfied unless or until you own a gun with a performance at least equal to your own potential. It's stepping up that is expensive.

To make it easy to start at the top, OPTIMA offer the following top quality combinations of gun and equipment essential to good shooting.

As always, we've put quality first in the choosing — and have made a price that's second to none.

See our advertisements on other pages for full specifications on the items offered, and for our unique guarantees that no one else dare offer.

DEFERRED PAYMENT PLAN now available on all orders £100 or over.

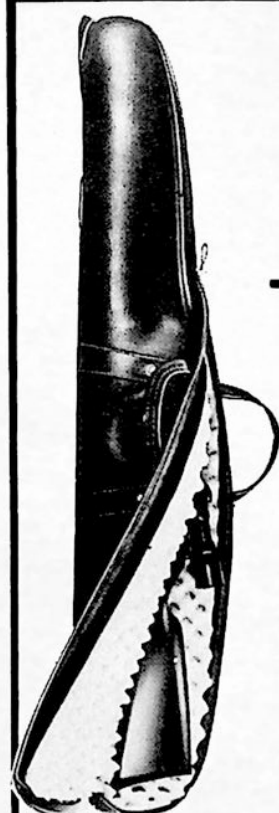
Terms: 20% with order plus 10 monthly payments of 10% of list price.

Please write or phone for application form.

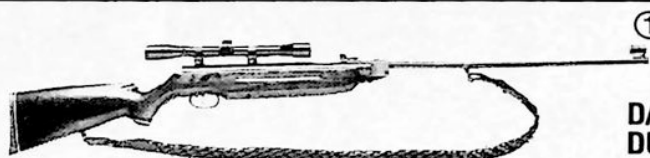


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Handbook/Manual
(worth £3.95) and
Optitune Voucher
(worth £3.00) with
all combinations

RECOMMENDED "ROUND-THE-CLOCK" COMBINATIONS



THE OPTIMA GC5 GUN COVER
included with all combinations



**DAWN-
DUSK**

WEIHRAUCH HW35E .22 or .177 with 4 X 32W
RIFLESCOPE & 9R MOUNTS, GC5 GUN COVER
& GS1 PLAIDED SLING

**FANTASTIC
VALUE
BOUGHT
SEPARATELY**

**IRRESISTIBLE
COMBO
PRICE**

£163.00

£145

**A SAVING OF
£18.00**



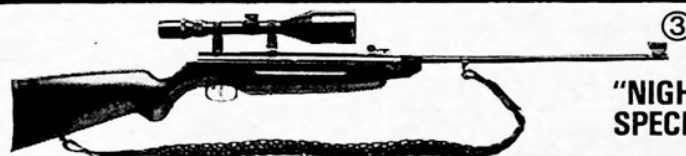
**NIGHT-
AND-DAY**

FEINWERKBAU FWB 124 (.177) or 127 (.22) with Z45
"MOONLIGHTER" RIFLESCOPE & 9H MOUNTS, GC5 GUN COVER
and GS1 PLAIDED SLING
* THE COMBINATION SUPPLIED BY OPTIMA TO THE WINNER OF THE 1981
FIELD SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP, BISLEY.

£183.15

£158

**A SAVING OF
£25.15**



**"NIGHT
SPECIAL"**

WEIHRAUCH HW35 STD. 19" .22 or .177 with
Z56 "SUPER MOONLIGHTER" RIFLESCOPE &
9XHR MOUNTS, GC5 GUN COVER and GS1
PLAIDED SLING

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**A SAVING OF
£23.95**

OTHER POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS

(Gun cover and sling included).

NB. L/H Versions: HW35E add £12.00

FWB 124/127 & HW80 add £12.00

		DAWN-TO-DUSK	NIGHT-AND-DAY	NIGHT SPECIAL
		OPTIMA 4 X 32W SCOPE	OPTIMA Z45 "MOONLIGHTER"	OPTIMA Z56 "SUPER MOONLIGHTER"
WEIHRAUCH HW35 E	.177 or .22	① £145	£165	£186
FEINWERKBAU FWB 124/127 or WEIHRAUCH HW80	.177 or .22	£140	② £158	£182
WEIHRAUCH HW35 STD 22"	.177 or .22	£120	£138	③ £156

We offer a Professional Mail Order only service. Immediate despatch. Prices are fully inclusive of p. & p., ins., etc. Full refund if not delighted upon receipt. Send cheque/PO with order, stating "over 17" and whether .177 or .22 required to Dept AGW 11/83



OPTIMA LEISURE PRODUCTS Ltd GILNOW MILL, SPA ROAD, BOLTON, LANCS BL1 4LF. Tel: (0204) 386899. Telex 63114

KEEPERWEAR-THERE'S NO BETTER VALUE



THE KEEPER COAT™

-The best value money can buy!

Do you want YOUR waxproof specially designed for field-sports? Do you want it tough? Do you want it smart, as well as totally practical? Do you want it to cost you an arm and a leg?

Just look at these top quality features:

- High quality multi-waxed full-weight cotton duck.
- Thermo-insulated three-ply lining (or tartan cotton to choice).
- Velvet cord collar with throat strap feature.
- Big, comfy, perfectly-located hand-warmers.
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- Internal game pocket and wading-strip hem (Our invention by the way!)
- Double ended, non-jam, non-corrodible zip.
- Warm and cosy pure wool internal wind cuffs.

— CHOOSE A 'KEEPER COAT™ and keep all your arms and legs!



THE 'KEEPER CANADA I

-It gives you, "More-for-less!"

YES, you get a lot more for a lot less, with the all-new CANADA I from KeeperWear.

When you choose your CANADA I, for only about £39, this is what you'll be giving yourself:-

- A full-weight multi-waxed waxproof, that's some 3" longer than our biggest competitor's best seller.
- The new and unique "CANADA BACK" — you'll get MORE freedom, and LESS sweat! because this new design combats your old enemies, sweat and condensation.
- Belt (Included in the price) combats draughts.
- Enormous cargo pockets, inside game pocket, wallet pocket; — even a whistle pocket for your dog whistle!
- Double ended non-jam zip, and storm flap.
- Tartan cotton liner, with wading strip (Our invention by the way!)
- Pure wool wind cuffs for non-scratchy comfort.
- and a lot more besides.

BE WISE — include a pair of Treggings* in your outfit — THE most comfortable leg-wear you can buy.

Lined full weight **£19.26**
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+ £1 post and packing.



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-The ultimate field-coat!!

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- 100% anti-glare fullweight waxed cotton.
- Superb 5 colour NATO pattern camo (as used in the Falklands campaign, and others).
- Dark olive velvet-cord collar, with camouflage, under.
- Totally waterproof.
- Snug, perfectly-located hand warmers.
- Giant cargo pockets — up to 1½ larger than the biggest competitor's!
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- Non-corrode, non-jam, double-puller zip.
- Deep wading strip hem (Our invention by the way!)
- Waterproof internal game pocket, of course.
- 100% pure wool internal wind cuffs, for snug comfort.

PLUS - PLUS - PLUS - KAMMOWAX HATS; KAMMOWAX OVERTROUSERS; KAMMOWAX MITTENS!!

Your local dealer should have these coats in stock, but if in difficulty, just add £1.00 (for post & packing) or £1.50 for Canada 1/Treggings and we'll ship by return.

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*this stock must be cleared-
hence these crazy prices*

**NO
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REQUIRED**

.22 BLANK FIRING

6" MAGNUM
MRP £29.95
OUR PRICE £23.50
plus £1.50 p&p

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small frame,
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NO COTTON WOOL
NO BITS OF WIRE**



(Patent applied for.)

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Why settle for less than the best? Only with a
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- * All metal construction
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- * No loss of accuracy
- * Compact and light in weight

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You won't find cotton wool, felt, plastic baffles or wire springs
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All at £19.95. SHARP INNOVA £22.95.

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Air Logic Limited

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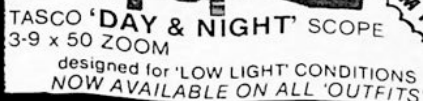
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Total enclosed _____

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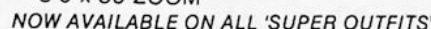
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Sling	£175	or	£18	deposit	£3.56/week
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	£183	or	£19	deposit	£3.72/week
	£163	or	£17	deposit	£3.31/week
	£140	or	£14	deposit	£2.86/week
	£131	or	£14	deposit	£2.65/week
	£188	or	£19	deposit	£3.82/week
	£165	or	£16	deposit	£3.38/week
	£156	or	£16	deposit	£3.16/week
	£138	or	£14	deposit	£2.80/week
	£129	or	£13	deposit	£2.63/week
	£162	or	£17	deposit	£3.29/week
	£139	or	£14	deposit	£2.83/week
	£130	or	£13	deposit	£2.65/week
	£159	or	£16	deposit	£3.24/week
	£136	or	£14	deposit	£2.76/week
	£180	or	£18	deposit	£3.67/week
	£162	or	£17	deposit	£3.29/week
	£139	or	£14	deposit	£2.83/week
	£130	or	£13	deposit	£2.65/week
	£114	or	£12	deposit	£2.31/week
	£ 93	or	£10	deposit	£1.88/week
	£213	or	£22	deposit	£4.33/week
	£190	or	£19	deposit	£3.88/week
	£159	or	£16	deposit	£3.24/week
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All our outfits have the new revolutionary FM range of scopes from

'TASCO'

and feature ultra violet coated lens, rubber windage and elevation adjusters, rubber edged eye bell, matt black non-reflective finish, and is waterproof, fogproof and shockproof. To this Tasco have added a focusing objective lens which allows the shooter to completely eliminate parallax, thereby ensuring total precision for shot after shot adding a new dimension in versatility.



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Sling	£180	or	£18	deposit	£3.67/week
	£188	or	£19	deposit	£3.83/week
	£175	or	£18	deposit	£3.56/week
	£165	or	£17	deposit	£3.35/week
Sling	£223	or	£23	deposit	£4.53/week
Sling	£210	or	£21	deposit	£4.28/week
Sling	£200	or	£20	deposit	£4.08/week
	£195	or	£20	deposit	£3.97/week
	£174	or	£18	deposit	£3.54/week
	£177	or	£18	deposit	£3.60/week
	£177	or	£18	deposit	£3.60/week
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We introduce the gun that will change the face of field shooting. From 'Ensign Arms Co' the revolutionary 'Ensign Elite' is the world's first bolt action, cartridge loading, centre fire air rifle. It is a complete shooting system which includes 10 rechargeable 'air cartridges' and a charging unit.



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The 'Ensign Elite' is also recoilless, so there is no danger of scope creep, fast to load, and has a trigger pull that is as good as any. What's more, the 'Ensign' is deadly accurate and extremely handsome. It is available in two models — the 'Elite' with a walnut stained beech stock and the 'Royale' with a walnut stock.

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ENSIGN ELITE	TASCO FM 1 75-5 x 40 Zoom Scope	TASCO MOUNTS	£244 or £25 deposit	£4.96/week
ENSIGN ELITE	TASCO FM 4 x 40 Wide Angle Scope	TASCO MOUNTS	£231 or £24 deposit	£4.69/week
ENSIGN ELITE	TASCO FM 4 x 32 Scope	TASCO MOUNTS	£221 or £23 deposit	£4.49/week
ENSIGN ROYALE	TASCO FM 3-9 x 50 'Day and Night' Zoom Scope	TASCO MOUNTS	£212 or £22 deposit	£4.31/week
ENSIGN ROYALE	TASCO FM 4 x 40 Wide Angle Scope	TASCO MOUNTS	£250 or £25 deposit	£5.10/week
ENSIGN ROYALE		TASCO MOUNTS	£324 or £33 deposit	£6.60/week
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£176 or £18 deposit £3.58/week

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FITTED WITH THE 'NEW' RANGE OF

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These scopes are matt finish. They feature optical glass lenses - are nitrogen filled - fog proof - waterproof - special tinted lenses. All scopes are 'PARALLAX ADJUSTING' with instant 'RANGE ADJUSTOR'.

Static Recoilless: ASI 4 x 40 WA: ASI Mounts



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COMPLETE OUTFITS: fitted with the new range of 'ASI' SUPER SCOPES & the 'NEW' ASI 6 screw MOUNTS

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WEHRAUCH EXPORT	3.9 x 56	DUSK/DAWN	£185 or £19 deposit	£3.76/week	BSA AIRSPORTER S	3.9 x 56	DUSK/DAWN	£194 or £20 deposit	£3.94/week
WEHRAUCH EXPORT	4 x 40	WIDE ANGLE	£156 or £16 deposit	£3.17/week	BSA AIRSPORTER S	4 x 40	WIDE ANGLE	£165 or £17 deposit	£3.35/week
WEHRAUCH 80	4.12 x 56	DUSK/DAWN	£189 or £19 deposit	£3.85/week	BSA AIRSPORTER S	3.9 x 56	DUSK/DAWN	£166 or £17 deposit	£3.36/week
WEHRAUCH 80	3.9 x 56	DUSK/DAWN	£175 or £18 deposit	£3.56/week	BSA AIRSPORTER S	4 x 40	WIDE ANGLE	£137 or £14 deposit	£2.79/week
WEHRAUCH 80	4 x 40	WIDE ANGLE	£146 or £15 deposit	£2.97/week	BSA AIRSPORTER S	3.9 x 56	DUSK/DAWN	£185 or £19 deposit	£3.76/week
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FEINWERKBAU SPORT MKII	4.12 x 56	DUSK/DAWN	£210 or £22 deposit	£4.47/week	BSA AIRSPORTER S	3.9 x 56	DUSK/DAWN	£166 or £17 deposit	£3.36/week
FEINWERKBAU SPORT MKII	3.9 x 56	DUSK/DAWN	£205 or £21 deposit	£4.17/week	BSA AIRSPORTER S	4 x 40	WIDE ANGLE	£137 or £14 deposit	£2.79/week
FEINWERKBAU SPORT MKII	4 x 40	WIDE ANGLE	£176 or £18 deposit	£3.58/week	BSA AIRSPORTER S	3.9 x 56	DUSK/DAWN	£166 or £17 deposit	£3.36/week
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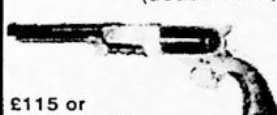


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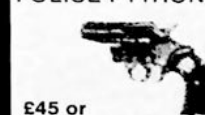
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The Editor says ...



EACH PAGE of this month's *Airgun World* will hold as much fascination for me as I hope it will do for you. That's because I shall be reading the articles for the very first time — just like everyone else is.

Normally, of course, I read most of the articles three or four times before the magazine goes on sale — just to make sure that everything is present and correct, as it were.

This month, though, I've left the magazine in the capable hands of our regular expert writers — and concentrated my attention on the *Airgun World Annual '84*, which goes on sale in bookshops and newsagents from November 4.

Many of you will no doubt remember last year's popular *Airgun World Annual*, which almost everyone seemed to enjoy. Well, I hope that you'll find this year's *Annual* equally interesting and entertaining. I've certainly enjoyed preparing it!

The 1984 *Annual* contains exactly 100 pages of fascinating airgun news — including special articles by all of our top writers. Let me just give you a taste of what you can expect ...

Arthur Shepherd has paid a visit to the Ensign factory, where they make the exciting new air cartridge rifles that are the talk of shooting ...

Geoffrey Boxall has put five junior rifles through their paces — and given the sort of no-holds-barred verdict that regular readers have come to expect from him ...

Ian Law has tested the remarkable Feinwerkbau Model 2 CO₂ match pistol — while John Avon gives his verdict on the Sterling HR83 sporting air rifle ...

Fred Grimwade comments on the different airgun power systems, giving each of them a rating out of 10 — while Eddie Barber describes how to restore an ageing rifle ...

Gerald Cardew discusses his famous pendulums, explaining how they measure velocity — and John Atkins investigates the history of the American parlour pistol ...

Add further articles by John Darling, Chris Wright, Freddie Dalgety, Les Herridge, Michael Baxter and many others — plus a competition with a first prize of a limited edition Ensign Royale air rifle — and you'll see why this year's *Airgun World Annual* is tremendous value at £1.60.

Don't miss it. Order a copy from your newsagent — or complete the coupon on page 43 of this issue.

Paul Dobson

AIRGUN WORLD

Volume 7 Issue No. 4

November 1983

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COVER PHOTO: JOHN DARLING.
Field shooting at dusk.

To NARPA members,

By now most of you will know that I have resigned as the Administrator of NARPA. And in order to deter any conjecture or wild guesses about the reasons why I resigned, *Airgun World* has agreed to publish this letter.

First of all, I would like to broach on the reasons for my resignation — they are quite simple to understand. I was unhappy with the direction that NARPA was heading, and I felt that I had no more to offer members who were hoping to see the association grow into a force to be reckoned with.

I am not at liberty to discuss the politics, though. This is the prerogative of the NARPA management committee.

I realise fully that I may not be helping NARPA by resigning so abruptly and at such an awkward time, but I could not morally carry on the work of the Administrator any longer.

I have, and always will have, a great interest in shooting. And I will always be keen to support any association that has the best interests of the shooter at heart.

I would like to thank all those whose support and friendship I have had over the past year and allowed me to continue the Administrator's job without too much difficulty. I will miss the daily contact with them all.

I sincerely hope that I will still be associated with shooting in one form or another because I believe that the shooting fraternity are the salt of the earth.

Finally I would like to thank the trade for all their help because without it airgunning would be so much the poorer. I hope that I'll see some of you again during the British Open Championships at Hippenscombe Farm shortly.

Terry Vickery,
Telford, Shropshire.

Olympic Draw

THE N.S.R.A are holding a draw from October 1 to December 3 to help raise money for the airgunners who will be competing in next year's Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

This is the first time that air weapons will be used in an Olympic event and Tony Clark, who is the NSRA chairman and Olympic team manager, says: 'I'm honoured to lead our shooting team to the Los Angeles Games in July.'

'Having already had experience as a shooter at the Games myself, I am well aware of the time and expense involved. All the profits from this draw will be distributed to the team members, which will give them a tremendous boost.'

Tickets can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: NSRA Draw, c/o 29 Meadowbank Road, Lightwater, Surrey GU18 5SX.



A must for every air pistol shooter.

A NEW hardback book has just hit the stalls called *Competitive Pistol Shooting* — and it's a must for every target pistol enthusiast!

The book is written by Dr. Laslo Antal and covers everything from free pistol shooting to all the UIT disciplines, which were first introduced at the 1970 World Championships at Phoenix in Arizona.

I mustn't forget to mention, though, that military, long range, muzzle loading and practical pistol events are also featured in this excellent publication.

Dr. Antal is a very well-known and

Ensign Champs

JUDGING by the interest in the first-ever Ensign Arms British Field Target Championship, which will be held on October 29 and 30, the event is set to become a great success.

The chief organiser, Jim Tyler, says that shooters will be flocking to the championship at Hippenscombe Farm in Wiltshire, and all the signs point to it being the best attended field target shoot ever!

Jim says: 'Everybody is working together to make the championship a success, and this is a great step forward for field target shooting, which has suffered because of various factions inside the sport in the past.'

'The British Open seems to be pulling everyone together and I hope this will set a new trend', he adds.

Of course, organising an event of this size takes a great deal of work, and Jim Tyler says that any offers of help on the day will be most appreciated.

The one cloud on the horizon, though, is the troubles at NARPA, which, of course, led to the last minute cancellation of the O.S.S. Finals at Hodnet in September.

The resignation of Terry Vickery as the association's Administrator means that there is no one to man the telephones and answer enquiries at NARPA's Bridgnorth headquarters.

If anyone needs further details about the championship, they are more than welcome to ring Jim Tyler on 0562 2195.

The main event will be held over a 40-

respected coach of air pistol shooting, and he has managed to combine his thorough medical knowledge and wealth of experience as a competitor to produce a comprehensive and vividly illustrative book with a useful glossary of technical terms for the less well-informed readers.

The book quite simply starts with the important safety principles and goes on to discuss a wide variety of subjects as well as giving tips on how to master the elementary techniques of pistol shooting. I found his short chapters on fault correction and training methods particularly useful.

The psychological facet of pistol shooting has always been something that has fascinated me, and Dr. Antal's thoughts on the subject make interesting reading.

So too his theories on competitions, and organisers of field target events would do a lot worse than to read what he has to say.

This 172-page book, which includes 24 pages dedicated to training methods, is excellent value at £6.95, and is published by E.P. Publishing Limited. I guarantee it will improve your pistol shooting!

shot course with two layouts of 10 targets, and each target will have two separate firing points.

Jim Tyler has decided that the event will not be timed, however, after speaking to many airgunners who complained about the stopwatch's added pressure.

The only event at the championship that will be timed is the Hidden Target Shoot, which has a superb pair of Tasco 10 X 25 binoculars worth £65 as first prize.

The binoculars have been given by Webley & Scott who have also put a fabulous Beeman C1 air rifle as the top prize for the clay event.

The main sponsors, of course, are Ensign Arms and they have excelled themselves by giving a superb limited edition Ensign Royale air rifle as first prize for the main event! The lucky winner will also receive a trophy.

Second prize will be an Ensign Elite and a trophy, while the third placed shooter will receive an Ensign Elite.

Airgun World are to sponsor the Field Target International, which will be held on the Sunday. It's the only event of the two-day championship which cannot be entered on the Saturday.

Should anyone shoot only on the Saturday and win a prize, but not be able to attend the prize giving after Sunday's events, then the prizes will be forwarded by post.

Accommodation is going to be pretty hard to come by near Hippenscombe Farm itself, and with the possibilities of some harsh weather during the weekend, it's probably best to organise B & B arrangements as soon as possible.

Competition

Crosman

Class!

3 terrific Crosman airguns to be won

ANYONE who hunts and wants maximum advantage over their quarry will be delighted with the Crosman prizes in this month's competition.

These Crosman pneumatics are among the most silent guns on the market — especially when they're fitted with Whisperer silencers!

Their lack of recoil, simple bolt action and easy-to-operate pump design make them an ideal hunting weapon. They're versatile weapons, too, because unlike a spring action gun the power of a pneumatic can be varied to suit different types of shooting. This is a big plus — particularly if you're new to the sport.

These quality American made guns are attractively finished and the model 1 with its American walnut stock and forend and blued-barrel sleeve is a real winner!

Crosman have the lion's share of the American market nowadays, and doubled their turnover in the States two years ago.

Three sleek Crosman rifles are up for grabs this month and there's a bumper bonus — with each air rifle is a Whisperer silencer, two tins of Hustler .22 pellets and a 4 X 20 scope! Quite a package!

FIRST PRIZE . . . A Crosman model 1. This super rifle is fitted with a Whisperer silencer from Air Logic, a 4 X 20 scope and with it are two tins of Hustler .22 pellets . . . **VALUE £100.**

SECOND PRIZE . . . A Crosman 766. This is a gun that any hunter would be proud to own. It's fitted with a wooden stock, Whisperer silencer and a 4 X 20 scope. You also win two tins of Hustler .22 pellets . . . **VALUE £94.**

THIRD PRIZE . . . A Crosman 2200 Magnum. This hardy, all-purpose weapon comes with a Whisperer silencer, a 4 X 20 scope and two tins of trusty Hustler .22 pellets . . . **VALUE £84.**

FOURTH PRIZE . . . Six Whisperer silencers. What consolation prizes for those who miss out on the big prizes! These superb silencers are a must for the complete field shooter . . . **VALUE £100.**

HOW TO ENTER

All you have to do to win one of these great prizes is to study the eight reasons for buying a Crosman pneumatic airgun, and place six of them in order of merit.

Send your completed entry form, together with a cheque or postal order for 30p, 50p, or 60p — depending on how many entries you want — to **Crosman Competition, Airgun World, 10 Sheet Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1BG.**

The closing date for entries is **Monday November 21.** The correct solution and prize winners' names will be published in our December issue. The Editor's decision is final.

ENTRY FORM

Study these eight reasons for wanting to own a Crosman pneumatic airgun, and place six of them in order of merit.

- Crosman airguns are quieter than most pump-ups.
- The Crosman's pneumatic action is virtually recoilless.
- Fitted with a Whisperer silencer, a Crosman rifle is almost totally silent when fired.
- The pneumatic action means you can adjust the power to suit your shooting.
- Crosman airguns look good and have a quality finish.
- Crosman airguns have easy-access, push-button safety catches.
- Crosman airguns are great value for money.
- Crosman actions should be totally reliable after thousands of shots.

Entry 1						
Entry 2						
Entry 3						
	1	2	3	4	5	6

ONE ENTRY — 30p
TWO ENTRIES — 50p
THREE ENTRIES — 60p

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

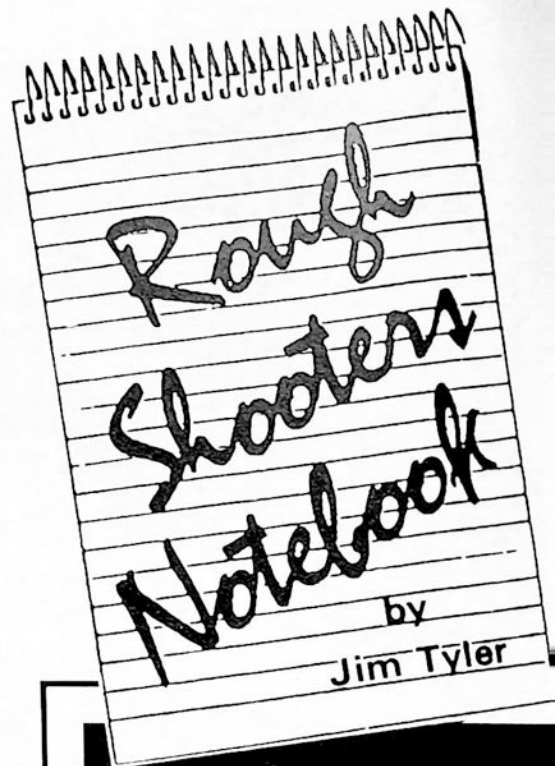
If you are under 17, an adult must sign on your behalf and give his/her name and address: _____

I enclose a cheque/P.O. to the value of 30p/50p/60p, (delete as applicable), made payable to *Airgun World*.

If you don't want to spoil your copy of *Airgun World*, just write your entry on a separate piece of paper. Send the completed entry to **Crosman Competition, Airgun World, 10 Sheet Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1BG.** Closing date for entries: **November 21, 1983.**



Cats have become victims of the irresponsible minority who drag airgunning into disrepute.



The

YOU MAY think that the greatest threat to airgunning comes from spirited pressure groups who seek to have all airguns banned or at least licensed. But if you do, you're wrong!

The greatest threat to our right to shoot air weapons is posed by those people who use airguns for crimes ranging from shooting domestic animals to trespassing in pursuit of game.

This unrepresentative minority drag airgunning into disrepute and create the constant Press interest which motivates many responsible people to lobby for further restrictions on airgun ownership.

Scarcely a week goes by without a report appearing in my local newspaper about an idiot with an airgun who has been caught breaking the law.

Three very recent incidents immediately spring to mind.

The first involved a simple case of trespass with a loaded airgun. The culprit 'got off' with a small fine.

The second incident was more disturbing. A policewoman on foot patrol in the local park disarmed a burly man dressed in full camouflage gear and carrying a loaded airgun. The WPC showed great courage because she thought that the airgun might actually have been a high-powered cartridge rifle.

The third report of airgun misuse is even more alarming! In Bewdley, Worcestershire, a resident has taken to shooting all the cats in the area.



It's Jim Tyler's view that the BASC have done much to preserve the airgunner's right to hunt.

Enemy Within!

When I took my lurcher to the vet, he told me that he recently had the unpleasant job of removing pellets from the wounded animal. He says that although he doesn't want to see airguns banned — he allows his son to shoot one — he is deeply concerned by this criminal abuse of air weapons.

There's been a great deal of local anti-airgun publicity generated by the Bewdley Cat Shooter, and many people in the community have turned against this particular individual.

These stories appeared in the last three issues of my local newspaper, but they were all outdone by a report in an evening newspaper which must rate as the sickest incident of airgun misuse I've ever had the misfortune to come across.

A cow which had wandered from the herd had been shot several times with an airgun before having its throat 'crudely' cut three times. Its legs had been tied together and a rear leg had been 'cut off'.

With reports like this finding their way into the Press, it's a wonder that airguns haven't been banned outright! We shouldn't forget that it was similar cases of cruelty to deer by poachers using crossbows which resulted in the ban on all hunting with longbow and crossbow under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

We all know that these irresponsible airgunners are a destructive minority, but this fact is in danger of being ignored by a person or group who take it upon them-

selves to try to force restrictions on airgun ownership and usage.

Such a move would probably be prompted by a Press report like those I've mentioned. And it leaves us a clear course of action: If we wish to retain our right to possess and use airguns, we're going to have to attack the root causes that inspire calls for further legislation.

It's very important that we look upon all airgun abusers for what they really are — the enemy! We must be on the look-out and report any criminal misuse of air weapons to the authorities. We can't afford to turn a blind eye to even the smallest incident that will tarnish our name and reputation, and turn yet another member of the public against airgunning.

The law-abiding sporting airgunner can help by joining the BASC, adopting their Code of Practice and establishing himself as a serious and responsible shooter.

All airgunners can help the BASC by sending them any Press reports of airgun misuse in which the culprit was found guilty and named. The BASC will operate a blacklist aimed at the destructive minority, ensuring that they are in no way associated with the BASC and its law-abiding members.

I'm in no doubt that the future of sporting air rifle shooting rests with the BASC. Indeed, if it hadn't been for the strong representations made by the

BASC when the Wildlife and Countryside Bill was debated, I'm sure we would already have lost our right to hunt with airguns.

The bowmen, however, didn't have the benefit of such strong and influential representation and, as I've said, the right to hunt with a bow and arrow has now been lost. As someone who used to hunt rabbits with a longbow at a very early age, I can assure you there's no reason for banning this type of hunting. I view this ban as the thin end of a wedge which is just waiting to be driven home.

The bow hunting ban was passed by Parliament because of poaching — mainly with crossbows — and therefore it would be a mistake to see airgun poaching as anything other than a serious offence likely to encourage moves to impose a similar ban on airgun hunting.

I'm afraid that too many people still view the poacher as a likeable rogue, though, and consequently underestimate the seriousness of poaching offences. But you see the poacher in a very different light when you've been his victim!

If you've ever visited your own shoot and found the tiny bodies of rabbits discarded because they were too small, or carrier bags full of trout fry left by escaping poachers, you'll know that it hardens the heart. You wish that every poacher in the country was behind bars.

My Worcestershire shoot has been poached by shotgunners, airgunners, ferreters, lurchermen and fishermen. Some have been caught, but most have escaped and very often the only sign that the land has been poached is a forgotten purse net peg near a burrow.

The fact that we've been poached by people using a variety of methods leads me to believe that it's the poachers — not their equipment — that require further legal deterrents.

Nevertheless, airgun poachers have given landowners a jaundiced view of the average airgunner, and this is why it's often so difficult to obtain permission to shoot over their land.

Another group whose activities are likely to result in more calls for restrictive legislation are those who deliberately alter their airguns to produce energy levels of more than the 12 ft. lbs. legal limit.

Although a few extra foot pounds muzzle energy is no great threat to society, can you imagine the meal the Press would make of an over-the-limit air rifle in a case of airgun misuse?

Sensationalist headlines would turn the air rifle into an 'assassins gun' and beg the question: How many more airgunners are in possession of rifles like this?

If you want an over-the-limit airgun, and you have suitable land on which to use it, you are legally obliged to obtain a firearms certificate, and get your gun professionally converted by a registered firearms dealer.

Remember, the next time you read a letter in a newspaper calling for restrictions or even a ban on airguns, don't curse the author of the letter — curse the airgunner who motivated the writer! They are the real enemies!



The Detonation Phase when the cylinder has been dented by a tiny explosion.

SINCE the first issue of *Airgun World* back in 1977, I have from time to time described experiments that investigated the many varied parts of a sporting air rifle.

And now, with many copy deadlines under the bridge, my final experiment is complete, even though it took me literally years to perfect. But the many false starts and out 'n' out failures have made the story an enlightening and fascinating saga.

I don't use the word 'saga' lightly, either, and this article has been edited in two parts with the next instalment in our December issue.

In a nutshell, the object of my time-consuming experiments has been to grasp a better understanding of the sporting airgun's mechanics and operation. Great perseverance on my part has been absolutely essential, I can tell you!

My patience, however, has been rewarded and I'm delighted to say that the results are absolutely conclusive. I've successfully separated the energy given to a pellet, via the spring, from the energy supplied by the lubricant's combustion.

But before I go into great detail, I must turn the clock back two or three years to explain the background of my idea. In the 1981 August and September issues of *Airgun World*, I enlarged on my theory that a spring air weapon can operate in any one of four phases — depending on the pellet's fit and the gun's lubricant.

I've called the first phase The Blowpipe Phase, which rather speaks for itself. In simple terms this refers to the occasion when the pellet doesn't fit tightly into the bore and is blown out by a blast of air.

Air weapons firing BB usually operate in this phase, as the ball is a slack fit in the bore, and is often held in the breech by a magnet.

The Popgun Phase comes next on my list, and this nickname refers to the pellet

being held tightly in the bore by its tail. The pellet is only blown out when the piston builds up enough pressure to force it out of the barrel.

The pellet sets off up the barrel in the same way as a cork flies from a popgun.

A working weapon using this method won't produce the highest velocities it's capable of. It will be very consistent, though, because the only variable affecting its velocity is the pellet fit, and there's very little difference between pellets from the same tin.

This system has gained a legendary reputation for accuracy and it's one that match weapons rely on. The velocity might not be great but the accuracy is amazing!

The velocities, incidentally, don't vary much beyond a few feet per shot. And you will notice that manufacturers of match air rifles and pistols strongly advise against lubrication to ensure that the weapons keep working in the 'popgun phase'.

The most important phase for the sportsman is what I call The Diesel Engine or Combustion Phase. Piston and spring lubrication is absolutely vital for this system to work effectively. This is because part of the lubricant is burned with every shot to produce the high velocities that are expected of this type of airgun.

It's imperative, however, that the lubricant is placed only behind the piston head — the spring then makes an ideal reservoir.

Gerald Cardew

If too much lubricant passes to the front of the piston the gun will immediately operate in The Detonation Phase — this is critical! A detonation is not a simple combustion of fuel but a great energy release — in other words a tiny explosion inside the gun.

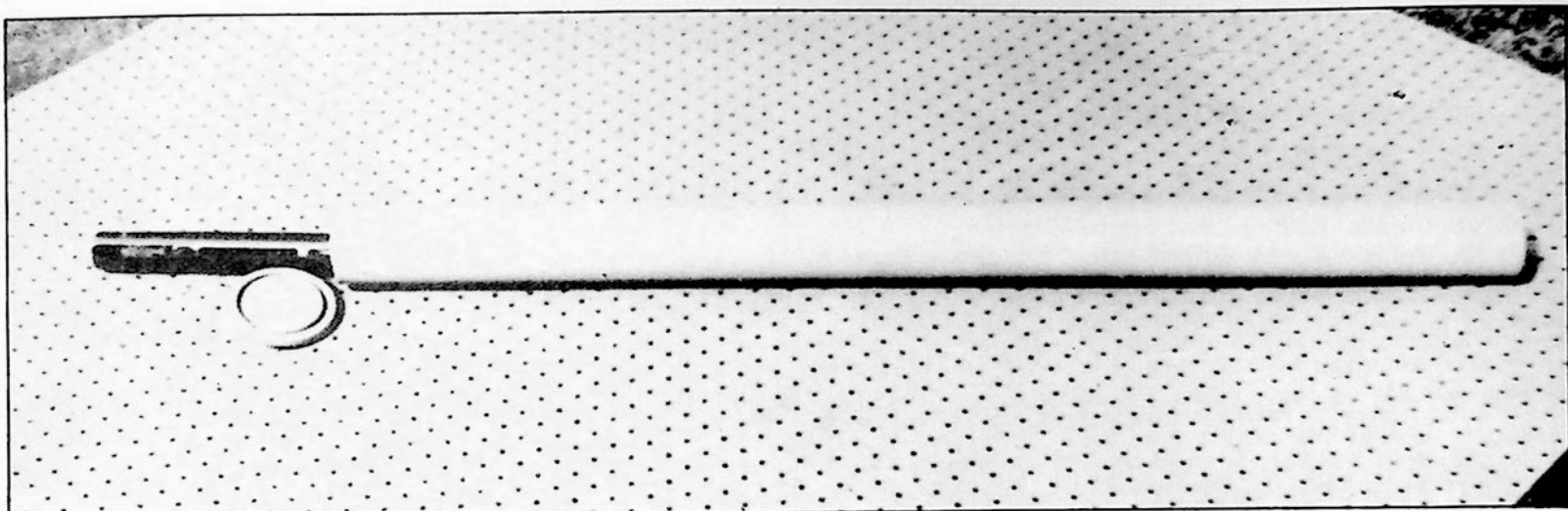
Obviously this is a dangerous condition and could damage the gun's inside mechanics and more than likely bulge or dent a cylinder. Squinting oil down into the transfer port of a high-performance sporting air rifle is just asking for disaster!

A recent in-depth investigation of transfer ports was carried out by Mr. Rowson and Mr. Maddocks of Bristol University and their discoveries were quite fascinating.

They say that once a certain air flow speed through the transfer port is achieved, the flow becomes supersonic. This leads to the port becoming choked, and the air can't pass through any faster.

On several occasions I've fired a sporting rifle that hasn't been loaded. I've noticed a very loud bang, and the barrel is left full of smoke. In the light of Rowson's and Maddocks' findings it's clear that when a port is choked up by the pressure build-up behind, it produces sufficient for combustion. This means that the airgun behaves just as though the pellet was in the breech.

I should point out that with a smaller



To extract all the oxygen, put the air rifle into a vacuum for 30 minutes.

gun this type of condition is impossible because the piston violently hits the cylinder end.

But back to the main stream of the subject! Once I had concrete evidence that these four phases exist, I discovered that I could explain the odd behaviour of weapons that arrived on my doorstep for overhaul or repair. One phenomenon that was conclusively solved was the mysterious tight piston.

A tight fitting piston means a poor performance, and yet experiments to determine the friction and characteristics of various pistons produced results which were completely the opposite to what I'd expected.

Thanks to these experiments I now know that a piston head must be capable of allowing lubricant to pass forward onto the cocking stroke and still have a perfect feel as it pushes forward again.

Although the practice bears out my theory, I was particularly keen to prove the third, or combustion stage, with a controlled experiment. I put my ideas to an airgun 'nut' from Farnborough in Hampshire and he agreed that, for a true picture, the gun must be cocked and fired from within an atmosphere of inert gas such as nitrogen.

The inert gas would eliminate the energy produced by the lubricant's combustion and the only energy supplied to the pellet would therefore come from the spring itself. He almost shot my plans down in a ball of flames, though. He pointed out that oil and grease can hold a considerable amount of oxygen which could distort my results very badly.

A chemical engineer friend of mine suggested that I use lubricants which don't contain either oil or grease. I'd already experimented with dry lubricants and pistons which wouldn't let the oil pass through, all with varying degrees of success.

Waterglas, washing-up liquid and medical jelly were all novel lubricants and they all produced a gun that shot with a low velocity, which I expected anyway. But unfortunately the ideal experiment still eluded me.

I wanted to fire a gun in the air, then in nitrogen and in the air once again — without interfering with the gun in any way. This would be the acid test!

Over the years, though, experience has taught me that true experimental results are difficult to achieve if the weapon is stripped down and re-built at some stage during the test itself. If I could only

remove the oxygen from the lubricant before the experiment, I might achieve some measure of success.

I always use one lubricant for my experiments, usually CARD Gel, and I put some of this gel in a jar and tried to extract all the air from it with a vacuum pump.

The gel expanded and looked like red, rubber foam, but the bubbles refused to burst and release the trapped gases. I even tried heating the gel to thin it, but it didn't take kindly to this method, either, and turned into a waxy mess.

Back to the drawing board I went to try to find a lubricant that would react as I wanted it to and at the same time have all of the normal characteristics inside my gun.

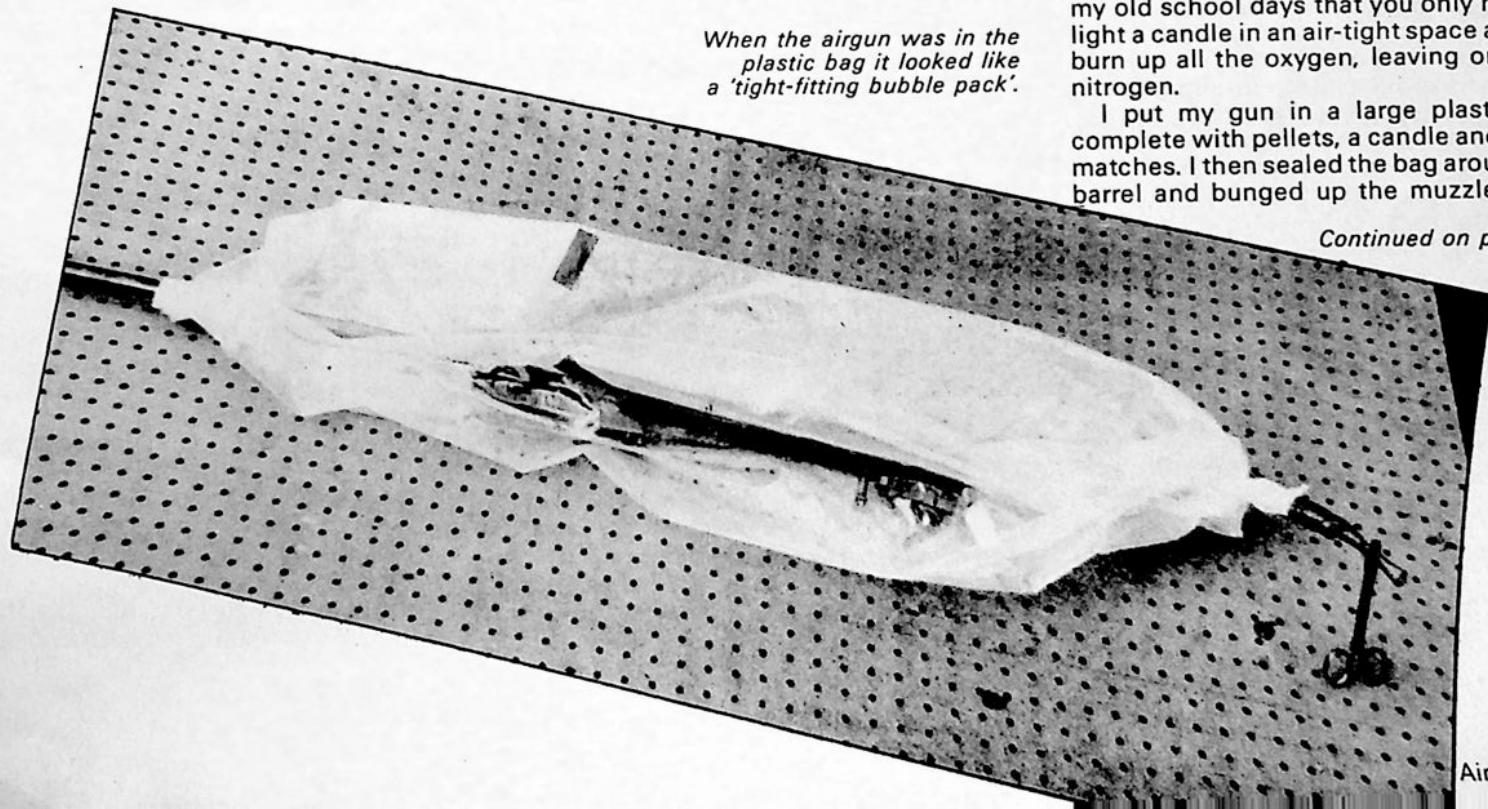
Having tried several proprietary gases, all of which produced their own problems when it came to giving up dissolved oxygen, I finally found a material that bubbled freely and in which all the air and oxygen dissolved when melted and placed under a vacuum.

To my great delight when it cooled it produced similar velocities to most other 'normal' lubricants. Now I had all the necessary materials for my acid test, except for the nitrogen.

To capture nitrogen isn't too difficult — well, in theory at least. I remember from my old school days that you only have to light a candle in an air-tight space and it'll burn up all the oxygen, leaving only the nitrogen.

I put my gun in a large plastic bag complete with pellets, a candle and some matches. I then sealed the bag around the barrel and bunged up the muzzle every

When the airgun was in the plastic bag it looked like a 'tight-fitting bubble pack'.



Continued on page 24.

Eureka!

Continued from page 23

time I loaded it. It all sounds very easy in theory, but even lighting the candle inside the bag was a task in itself!

Making sure the candle didn't melt the bag while it burned up the oxygen required even more imagination! But all that is child's play compared to cocking a stockless Weihrauch HW35 inside a plastic bag!

I needed plenty of patience before I managed to feed the pellets into the breech, and felt it had all been worthwhile until I fired the gun and the chronograph told me that I was sadly mistaken.

My friend the chemical engineer told me that the candle wouldn't burn up all the oxygen in the bag, although in this experiment it was vital all the oxygen was expelled one way or another. Clearly the only way I was going to achieve the proper results was to get a suitable supply of pure nitrogen from a cylinder.

While the nitrogen supply was being organised, I thought I'd have a dry run using carbon dioxide. CO₂ is far easier to obtain than nitrogen — it can be bought in any shop that caters for making fizzy drinks at home.

Although CO₂ doesn't have exactly the same characteristics as nitrogen — it's heavier — it's nevertheless inert and won't support combustion. And being a heavier gas I suspected, too, that the velocities would be lower than those I hoped to produce using nitrogen.

This proved to be the case, but I managed to gain some useful experience of handling an airgun inside a plastic bag!

As I've already said, the whole object of the exercise was to get through the experiment without once interfering with the gun. So beforehand I stripped down the .22 calibre HW35 and degreased it thoroughly. The leather piston head was given the same treatment and I put it in a jar of hot lubricant in a vacuum.

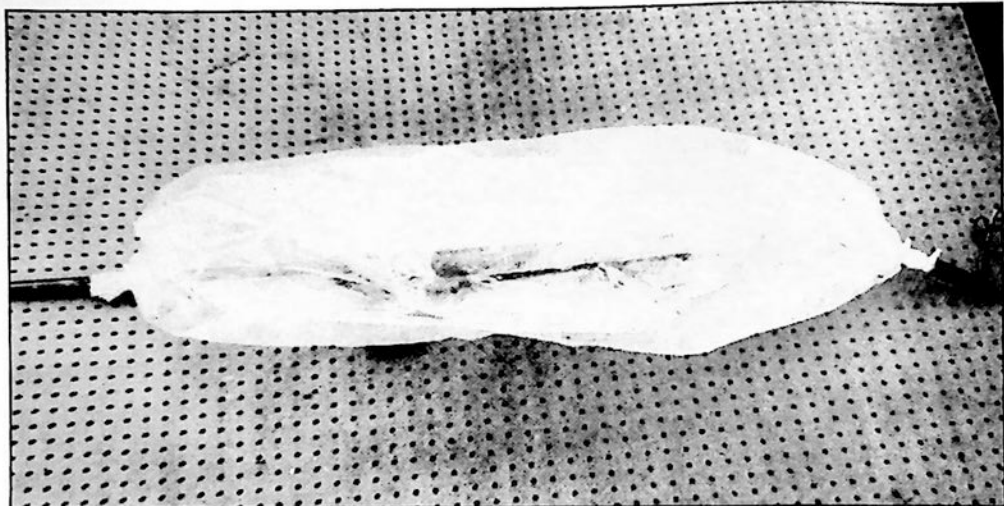
As the bubbles stopped appearing from the leather the vacuum was released and the lubricant soaked into the leather head and built up onto the piston.

I then re-built the gun and placed a teaspoon of lube behind the piston head and gave the spring a plentiful supply, too. At the same time I made sure that no lubricant seeped in front of the head. I fired the gun 10 times to stabilise the liquid and a further 10 shots recorded an average velocity of 636 f.p.s.

Having fired the gun I was worried that either air or oxygen might have again forced its way into the piston head and lubricant. Just to make sure, though, I put the gun into a tube and vacuum for 30 minutes. This would draw as much air as possible from the lube and the leather.

It was once again time to envelop the weapon in a plastic bag and seal it to the barrel, while at the same time sealing the short length plastic tube into the bag at the breech end. This tube was used to draw the air out and let the nitrogen in.

I blocked the muzzle with a lump of



The CO₂ gas helped restore the equilibrium before the big test.

plasticine to ensure that no air entered the cylinder when the gun was being cocked. This was purely a safety precaution, though, as nothing could go down the bore while it was uncocked because the piston would be in a forward position blocking the inner end of the transfer port.

The vacuum soon sucked out all the air and my gun looked like a tight fitting bubble pack, but the CO₂ soon restored things, though.

I then placed the cocked weapon in the cradle I had made. This ensured its alignment with the chronograph screens.

I was careful to remove the muzzle bung for each shot and the chronograph told me that my predictions were correct. I had an average velocity reading of 306 f.p.s. This was a marvellous omen as I was hoping for roughly 400 f.p.s. when I finally got round to shooting in nitrogen.

All my previous trials with non-combustible lubricants produced 400 f.p.s., but I had always thought the low figures were because of the poor lubricating qualities of the various substances I tried. Nitrogen was the only answer that would give me equal conditions in the 'popgun' and 'combustion' phases.

My nitrogen arrived just as I finished the dry run, so I continued my experiments without a break.

The first step was obviously to check my weapon in the air again. It produced a higher average of 676 f.p.s. When I studied the figures more closely I discovered that the early shots were high, thus pulling up the average. The final ones, however, were all nearer the original 636 f.p.s. mark.

The reason appears to be that since the CO₂ couldn't burn any fuel there was an accumulation of lubricant in the piston head. This would have increased the power of the first few shots.

I was now ready for the final run: after placing the gun in the vacuum chamber, again going through the air expulsion routine, the big moment had come at last.

On many previous occasions disaster had struck — but this time I was really confident. I filled the bag with nitrogen and was all fingers and thumbs as I placed the first pellet in the breech.

I squeezed the trigger, but the gun certainly didn't make its usual loud crack and the pellet took its time reaching the 'stop'. My velocity meter took an age to calculate the final answer — 416 f.p.s.

But one swallow doesn't make a summer, so I persevered with a string of five shots which were recorded at an average of 426 f.p.s. Success!

The time had come for the final change back to air. The f.p.s. figures started off very high and then fell, eventually giving an average of 676 f.p.s. and a final figure of 622 f.p.s. I had also successfully changed from air, to gas, and back to air without altering the gun!

This concrete proof that a large amount of energy in the pellet of a sporting air rifle comes from the lubricant's combustion.

From these figures alone I've calculated that a 14.4 grain Eley Wasp pellet, travelling at 676 f.p.s. contains 14.6 ft. lbs. power. But when it travels at 426 f.p.s., it has only 5.8 ft. lbs.

Now, 5.8 ft. lbs. is only 39.7 per cent of 14.6 ft. lbs. and so with this particular air rifle — under these conditions and producing 14.6 ft. lbs. — 5 ft. lbs. of power comes from the spring and 8.8 ft. lbs. from the fuel combustion. In other words, 60.3 per cent of the energy is supplied by the lubricant.

At the end of my experiment I found that the spring had been badly damaged and was capable of storing only 30.65 ft. lbs. of energy, instead of the typical 43 ft. lbs. value.

This means that my gun was only 19 per cent efficient in nitrogen and, apparently, 47.6 per cent efficient when operating in normal conditions.

It's a possibility that the velocity loss was due, in part at least, to the molecular weight difference between nitrogen and air. This theory can be ignored, though, because nitrogen's molecular weight is 28, oxygen 32 and air 28.97. But in the case of the carbon dioxide the difference is certainly due to its molecular weight of 44.

It's worth mentioning that it's possible to achieve high velocities with airguns in the 'popgun' phase, but this needs high power springs and swept volumes.

Next month I'll be continuing this long saga and really finding out what makes an airgun 'tick'!

Top Tips

*The page where
you can pass on
your airgun hints*

SEND YOUR TIPS TO: Top Tips, Airgun World, 10 Sheet Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1 BG.

From Jason Hilick of Penryn

I've been using an ingenious combination of pellets this year and on my all too infrequent hunting forays I've bagged four rabbits and nine pigeon.

My secret is to take a casing from a Sussex Sabo pellet and insert a Crosman copperhead .177 BB inside it. When it's pushed in the dispenser properly there's enough space to snap in another BB.

This means that you can shoot two 'pellets' for the price of one and the accuracy and power is still excellent!

From Tony Watson of Redcar

I've discovered that some Biro pens make excellent dispensers for Sabo pellets. The Biro's casing holds roughly 15 Sabo pellets and they can be easily taken out with the help of a straight twig.

An added bonus is that the leaves of the Sabo have to close when they are slipped into the Biro. This means that the pellets can be dropped easily into the port of a pneumatic rifle without any difficulty.

From Tristram Compton of London

Here's a tip for giving un-varnished stocks a completely water-proof and pseudo french-polish finish.

Melt one part of beeswax with two parts of genuine turps in an oven. When the beeswax has melted remove it from the heat and let it cool off until it's tepid.

Apply the mixture liberally onto the stock with a lint-free cloth. Rub on several layers and allow drying time between the coats, though.

When the operation is complete and the stock is totally dry, give it a hearty rub and shine with a soft cloth — it'll come up a treat! If there are any blemishes on the silky, smooth mirror finish, they can be removed with the help of a damp tissue.

From L. Coe of Sheffield

Silencers that are sprayed with black paint often scratch very easily, which is most annoying. I solve the problem, though, by sandpapering the silencer and then covering it with electrical tape.

My silencer doesn't get scratched any more, of course, and it is absolutely water-tight, too.

THIS MONTH'S GUEST TIPSTER GERRY TURNER



It's very difficult for airgunners to obtain shooting rights on private property. But you can employ certain tactics which are more likely to produce positive results.

The sportsman who takes the trouble to study and learn about the countryside he would like to shoot on has a head start over someone who just turns up 'cold'.

Get to know the local agriculture pattern, find out what crops are grown and who owns the land and the type of farm he runs. Someone who knocks on a dairy farmer's door when he's in the middle of milking will be unlikely to get a particularly informative conversation!

Equally, a farmer won't be impressed by the person who drives into a farmyard wearing full 'cammo' gear and is stacked to the teeth with equipment. It's much better to dress smartly and expect not to be granted shooting permission immediately.

It's a good idea to offer your services to the farmer or landowner and help with the harvesting, bale oating and similar farm chores. Alternatively, work alongside the gamekeeper and help with the beating or other estate work.

Remember that shooting grants will only be granted when you've struck up a mutual relationship that is based on trust. Like most good things in life, however, obtaining shooting rights is no easy task.

In my view it's a good tip to stick at it because the benefits are tremendous, but always respect the farmer's wishes at all times or risk losing everything that you have worked so hard for.

From Pete Hart of Godalming

I think I've made an important discovery with Prometheus pellets. It was a completely accidental discovery as I always try new pellets when they come on to the market so long as they're within my financial range.

The first test was with my Anschutz air rifle — the penetration of the Prometheus pellets were excellent, and the best grouping I achieved was a little over 2 ins. at 20 yards.

Unfortunately they were not so impressive when I used the Airsporter — the slug disintegrated, but luckily there wasn't any damage.

When I practice or test a variety of pellets I always have a lead sheet for a backstop. This avoids ricochets and the lead always catches the pellet. It's a particularly useful tip because you can melt down the lead afterwards and make pistol or musket balls from it.

My second tip is to place a thick layer of grease between the body of an air rifle and the stock to prevent water, dirt and grit squeezing between the two and gumming up the works!

From Phil Weeks of Surbiton

I've found an excellent method of keeping my pellets safe and dry while in the field — and it costs virtually nothing!

Take an empty ink cartridge and slice off the top part so you can insert the pellets with no difficulty. If you attached several of these to a belt, they would make a perfect bandolier which could be worn over your shoulder or slipped across the stock of an air rifle.

From R. House of Llandovery, Dyfed

A lot of noise is made by pellets clanging against a metal backstop during indoor target shooting competitions, and this doesn't help the competitors' concentration.

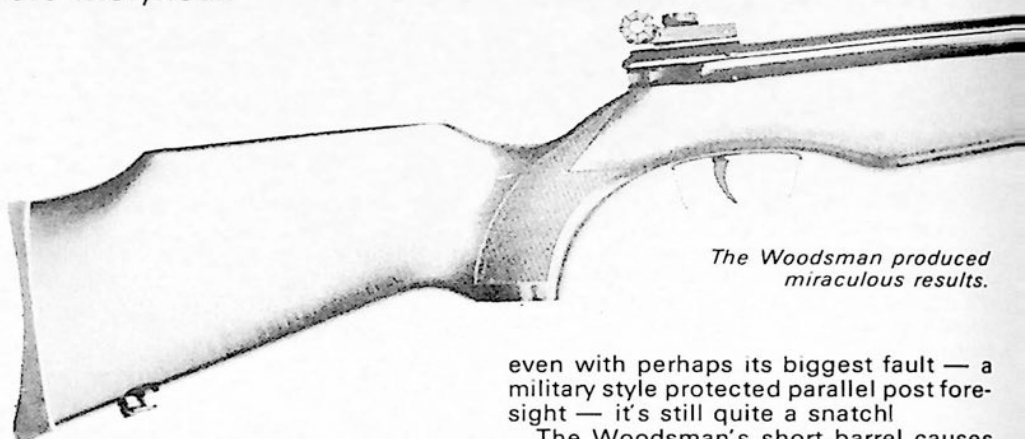
But this clanging can be completely eliminated if you use off-cuts from a carpet. These should measure a minimum of 4 ins. square, and be glued to the back plate of the target holder.

With two layers of carpet the noise is almost totally non-existent and there'd be no danger of ricochets and rebounds, either. When the carpet has been shot to pieces, just peel it off the backstop and replace it with two more layers.

GUN TEST

Photos by
Clare Molyneux

The



The Woodsman produced miraculous results.

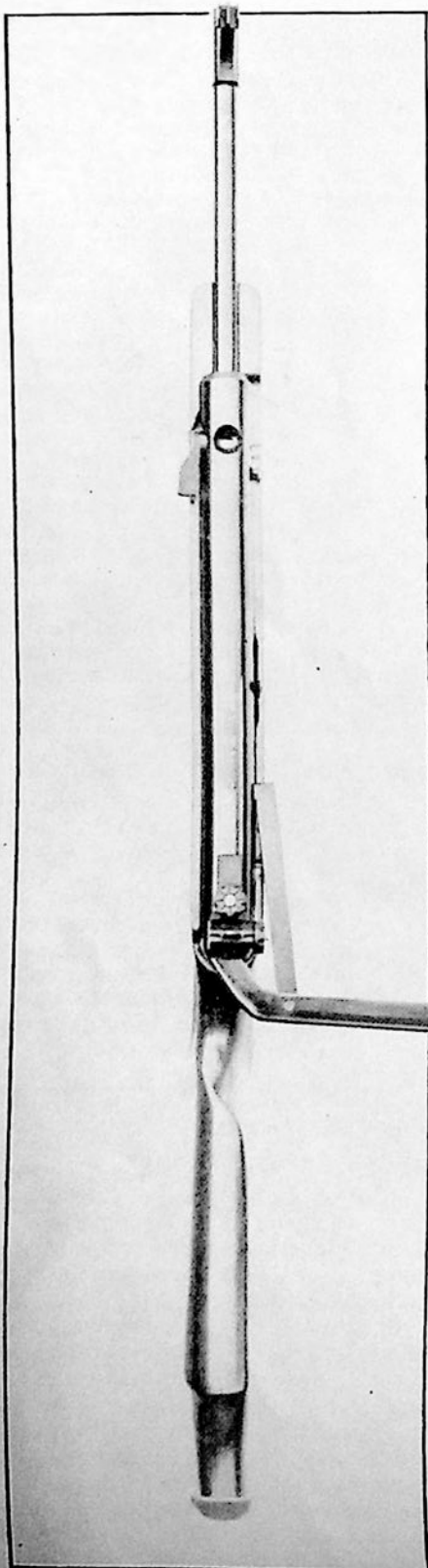
IF THERE was a competition for the most surprising air rifle of the year, my vote would go to the British made Air Arms Woodsman!

This Sussex-based company has emerged, after terrible financial losses when Sussex Armoury collapsed, as a progressive and imaginative manufacturer who have almost perfected the old Sussex Armoury range of air rifles.

Surprised? Well, after I had taken the Woodsman straight out of the box for its test, the rifle performed accurately and without any sign of dieseling. This is quite an uncommon feat! Furthermore, it was a great deal better than I had anticipated when I was told that this rifle was to be this month's test model.

It proved to be far more accurate than many rifles costing twice the price and,

An aerial view of the Woodsman.



SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer:	Air Arms, Station Road Industrial Estate, Hailsham, Sussex.
Calibre:	.22.
Weight:	7 lbs. 9 ozs.
Overall Length:	36 $\frac{3}{4}$ ins.
Barrel Length:	11 ins.
Muzzle Velocity:	617 f.p.s.
Muzzle Energy:	11.58 ft. lbs.
Price:	£95.50 — with open sights. £92.00 — with muzzle break and no sights.

even with perhaps its biggest fault — a military style protected parallel post fore-sight — it's still quite a snatch!

The Woodsman's short barrel causes marginally more noise than usual, but its accuracy is exceptional and the overall performance nothing less than outstanding.

Over both 10- and 20-metre distances, all my pellets grouped inside $\frac{3}{4}$ in., and the grouping on the 35-metre outdoor target equalled anything that I have ever achieved before with a standard .22 calibre sporting rifle.

The Woodsman's power is well over 11.5 ft. lbs. when new. So, it should therefore get near the 12 ft. lbs. limit once it has been broken in. But with this rifle's degree of accuracy, 0.5 ft. lb. is neither here nor there, especially when most of today's models try too hard for power and sacrifice accuracy in the process!

The Woodsman, however, has both the power required by the hunter and the accuracy needed for outdoor target shooting. Add to this the easy handling — the Woodsman's length is just 36 $\frac{3}{4}$ ins. — you've found just about the best combination there is for the two aspects of airgunning.

Nothing is perfect, though, and my two criticisms of the Woodsman are the sights and the uncomfortable handling of the cocking lever.

Where the sights are concerned, you have an option. You can purchase the rifle without sights and fit either a silencer, or muzzle brake, to cover the end of the barrel.

Both the muzzle break and the silencer are available from the maker — and if you add a good scope this rifle is a real bundle of joy!

The results achieved with these additions are nothing less than miraculous — almost unbelievable! I was so overwhelmed that I offered the rifle to one of today's leading outdoor target shooters, Dave Welham, and he confirmed my beliefs and results!

The Woodsman is available in .22

Woodsman

by
Geoffrey
Boxall

calibre only. It's a fixed barrel, side-lever cocking rifle with sights fore and aft. The rearsight is an adaptation of the aperture sight and gives a long sight line of some 22 ins. — this feature no doubt helps the gun's accuracy.

The stock is beech, and well-finished in a medium brown colour with a solid rubber butt plate over a white line spacer. The comb is raised and there's a slight cheek piece for the right-handed shooter.

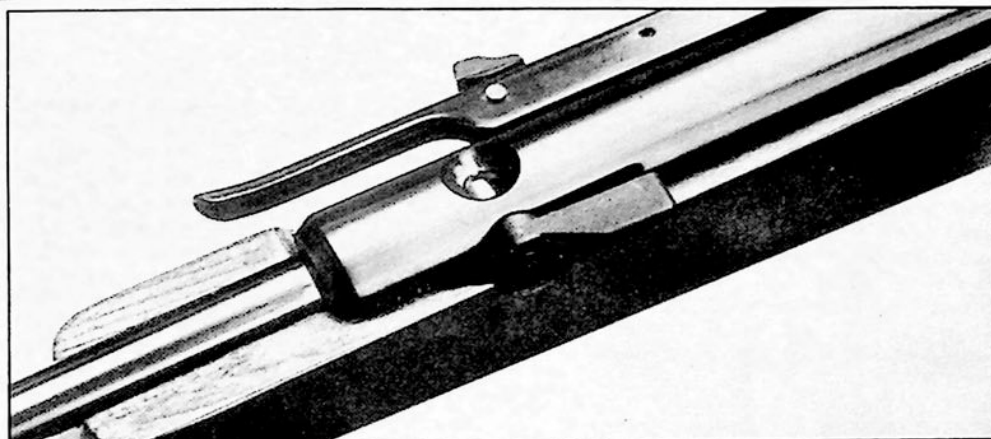
Panel chequering on either side of the pistol grip breaks up the high gloss finish on the stock, and the wood-to-metal fit is admirably done. Sling swivels are fitted to the stock as standard, but don't interfere with them if you don't want to use a sling. This is because the swivel fixing screw doubles up as a stock fixing screw.

The rearsight is plastic, but of far better quality than the original Sussex Armoury type. The aperture, which has both windage and elevation adjustments, is part of a rearsight leaf, and that gives a clear picture.

The plastic elevation adjustment is a little difficult to operate and because of its vulnerable position, it's possible to break the rearsight rather too easily.

The foresight is a parallel post positioned between two protective arms, something like the Enfield air rifle in the old .303 calibre days.

The sights are the only feature that don't get a nine out of 10 rating, but, nevertheless, the results were good when I used them.



The tap hole was a little too big for the pellets.

The side-cocking lever has an ingenious redesigned catch, which is very positive and easy to use. You can knock it off with the heel of your hand and you merely snap it closed.

The loading tap is easily handled and has a smooth action, although the pellets tried very hard to swivel when entering the breech because the aperture is a little on the large side.

A single-stage trigger with some weight adjustment is fitted. This is another good feature of the Woodsman because, even though the adjustment is minimal, the pull is crisp. You know when

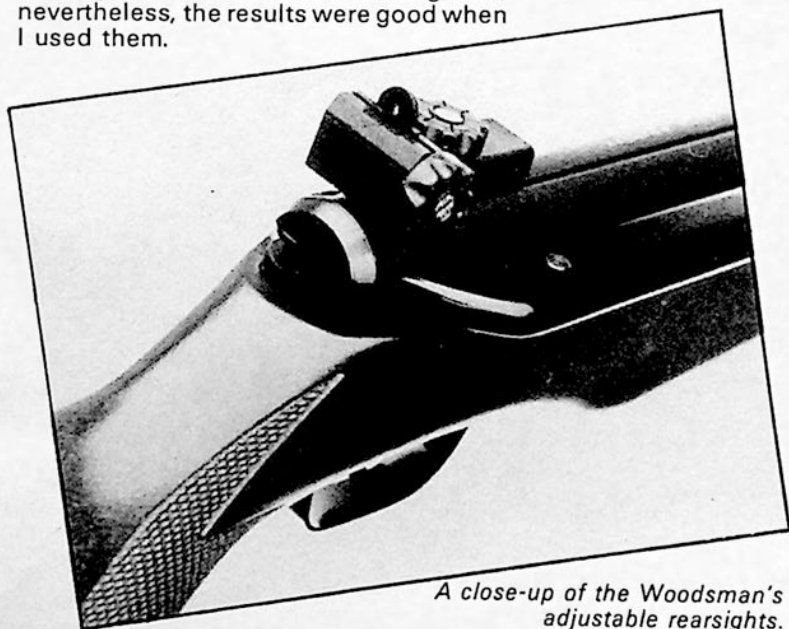
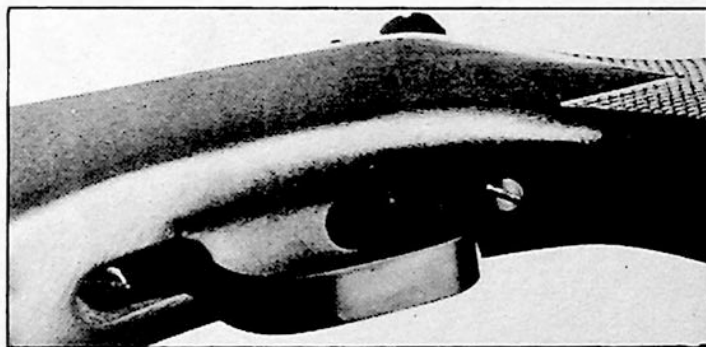
to expect the release because there's a pull of around 2½ lbs. — ideal for this type of rifle.

The Woodsman is certainly the most accurate sporting rifle I've tested in recent months. It has power with very little variation in velocity.

This British made airgun has a great future. Once a top shooter wins with a Woodsman there'll be no holding it!

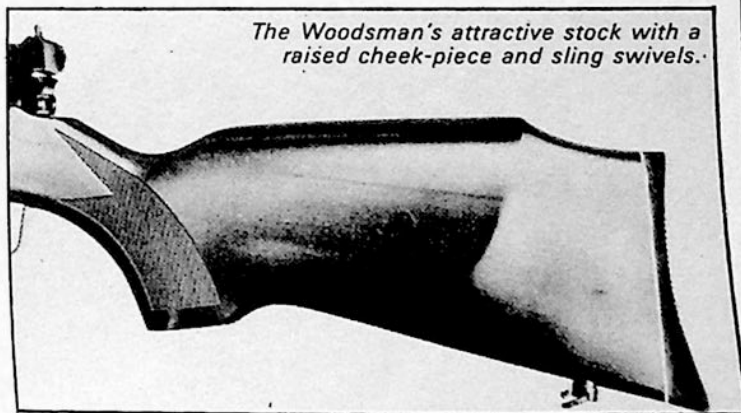
Available with open sights, or without sights and with a muzzle break, the Woodsman is here to stay — and if this rifle is anything to go by, I'll be delighted to see it succeed!

The one-stage trigger was perfect for this air rifle.



A close-up of the Woodsman's adjustable rearsights.

The Woodsman's attractive stock with a raised cheek-piece and sling swivels.



AS ENTHUSIASTIC airgunners, we like to think that we know the Laws relating to our sport pretty well.

Perhaps we're not all budding Perry Masons on airgun regulations, but most of us are confident that we are not so ignorant or so foolish as to step out of line with our local constabulary.

All of that ebullient confidence can fly straight out of the window, though, when we're challenged — then suddenly we're not so sure of ourselves anymore.

This happened to me only recently when a friend loudly exclaimed: 'You can't do that!'

I turned in surprise. 'What's the matter?' I asked. He worriedly replied: 'You can't carry an uncovered air rifle in the street. It's against the Law — isn't it?'

In all honesty I was none too sure myself. I was standing on the pavement with a target rifle that wasn't covered. I was only waiting for my disconcerted companion to open his car boot so I could put the rifle away.

It wasn't as if I was waving the rifle around in the road, whether it was loaded or not. I know that the airgun wasn't loaded, but naturally worried passers-by would have every right to feel disconcerted.

Before going any further with this

LEARN YOUR

Chris Wright
airgun

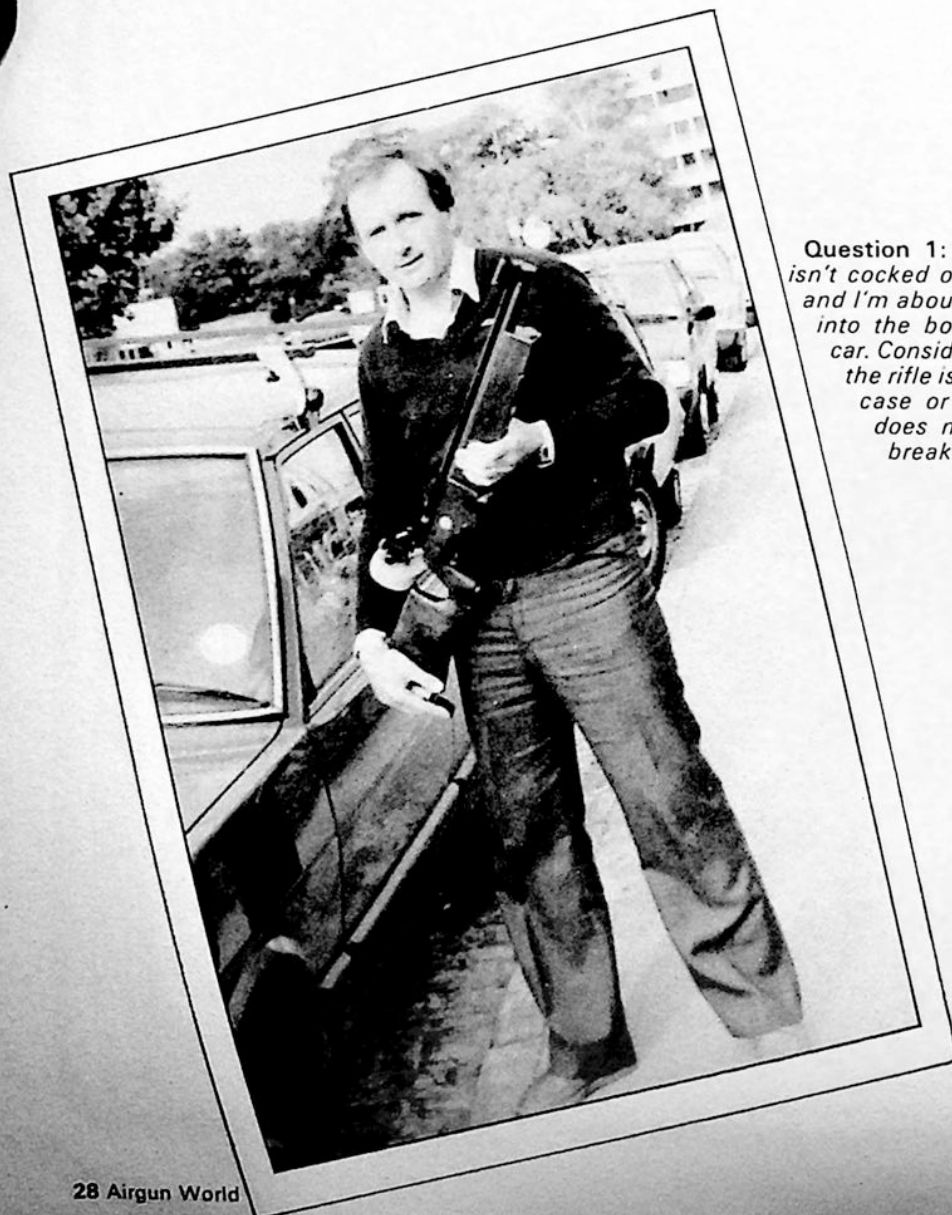
article, take a careful look at the pictures and questions to discover how confident you are of answering those 'challenges'!

I hope that most of you are pretty well informed, but two or three years ago there would have been more confusion, or perhaps simply more ignorance, about the Laws and where airgunners stand.

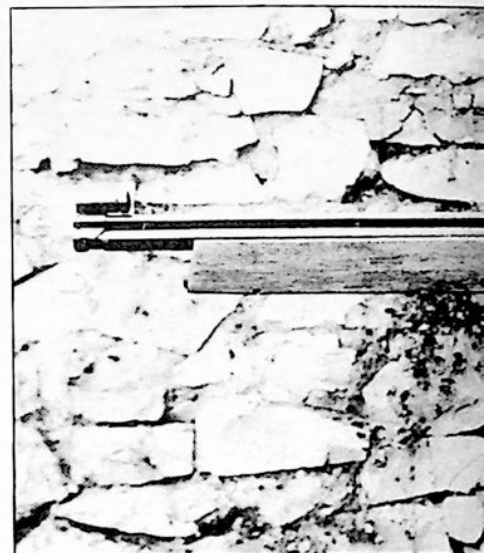
Many organisations and associations, and I include *Airgun World*, have more than played their part in trying to educate airgunners about their rights and duties over the past couple of years.

This is a pretty good opportunity to see how clearly the message has been put across!

continued on p30



Question 1: *The gun isn't cocked or loaded, and I'm about to put it into the boot of my car. Considering that the rifle is not in its case or covered, does my action break the Law?*



Question 2: *My 13-year-old son, Simon, has borrowed my rifle and some pellets with my permission. He's a safe shooter and on this occasion not supervised by me. There's a back-stop behind the tin cans he is shooting at. Is this within the Law?*



LAW!

spotlights legislation



*Simon Wright
reads the Airgun
Law leaflet that
is available from
all gunshops.*



Question 3: Simon's older brother Jonathan, aged 16, has promised to keep an eye on Simon's shooting at all times. Is this legal?



Question 4: Jonathan is taking an air pistol to a friend's house. It's not loaded and is secure in the case. Jonathan will not open the case until he's finished his journey. Is this within the Law?



Question 5: *I'm carrying in my briefcase a new CO₂ powered pistol which I bought in France while on holiday. I didn't declare it at customs, but there's no duty on it anyway. Are there any problems?*

Question 6: *I've been asked by a friend to shoot a pigeon which has become a pest and is fouling his roof. I'm going to wait for the pigeon to perch on the chimney because I don't want to risk breaking the roof tiles. The house is on a newly-built housing estate. If I fire at the pigeon in these circumstances from inside the garden fence, am I breaking the Law?*



Having studied the questions underneath each of the pictures, did you find them easy? You should have, really.

But before I go through the answers, I should point out that the Firearms Regulations are not the only Laws concerning airguns. They can also be assumed to be offensive weapons, too, and there are all manner of regulations on that score.

One of the safest rules to go along with, though, is: Use your common sense!

Answer 1: This is not a difficult question, but you must take into account the photograph above to achieve the true answer. I am within the Law, but it would be very foolhardy to wave the gun around, take practice aims with it, or even carry it down the High Street like that.

I nearly always wrap a rifle in a rug if it isn't in its case. It almost seems indecent exposure to carry a 'bare' rifle — but it is legal.

Answer 2: This is definitely against the Law. No one under 14 years old is allowed to shoot an air rifle unsupervised. Who can supervise the boy is another question, which I'll broach on soon. But in

this case I am likely to end up in court, even though Simon is in his own back garden, shooting a familiar rifle, and I'm within calling distance.

Answer 3: It would still be illegal if Simon was being supervised by his 16-year-old brother Jonathan. A 'supervisor' must be over 21. This is sure to surprise a lot of readers, but here again the Law is broken.

Answer 4: Perhaps this is the trickiest question of all. At 16, Jonathan can own and carry an air rifle in the street, providing, of course, that it is unloaded and securely fastened in a case. However, although Jonathan can own a pistol at this age, he cannot carry one in a public place, even in a secure case. But when he is 17 he will be able to do so legally.

On the point of ownership, incidentally, Jonathan can only receive an airgun as a present from someone over 17 — he cannot buy one himself. His younger brother, Simon, aged 13, cannot be given an airgun by anyone.

Answer 5: This concerns one of the more ludicrous pieces of legislation. But first of all, let me make it quite clear that

there's not a CO₂ gas pistol in the briefcase, and I didn't bring one back from France!

If this were the case, though, I would be expecting a visit from the police very soon!

I use this somewhat bizzare example because when I visited France last year it seemed that most of their air pistols were CO₂ powered. I knew that in Britain you need to have a Firearms Certificate to own one. And at the customs post on the homeward journey I was given a leaflet detailing all the goods that must be declared — including gas pistols!

To actually bring a gas pistol across the English Channel without having an FAC would be a serious crime in itself, but to make matters worse you would be smuggling, too!

I must admit I reckon that this is a daft Law. I can't understand why there should be restrictions on guns that are no more powerful than target air pistols and can't produce any greater power using .177 or .22 calibre pellets.

It's high time that this particular Law was changed. There are all sorts of interesting gas guns made and they are often cheaper than spring powered versions and certainly not as powerful. Surely the Law governing the maximum power for rifles and pistols should be adequate control in itself.

Don't misunderstand me — I'm all for enforcing the present Laws — but I'm equally keen to see the back of this one.

Answer 6: There are many complications with this situation. But by and large most birds are protected. I doubt whether the pigeon in question is, though, because it's being a nuisance.

Problems arise, however, because this pigeon might be a pet and you could finish up paying compensation for a valuable racing pigeon!

The house doesn't have a large front garden and is close enough for neighbours to see what you're doing. It's an offence to shoot within 50 yards of the centre of the road, even though you're on private property. And try to avoid upsetting the neighbours, too.

The real clue to the answer, though, lies with the Law that states that a pellet fired from an air weapon must not leave the bounds of private property.

If the pigeon was in front of a wall you would be pretty safe, but if the bird was perched on a chimney stack or the like, your shot could miss and go beyond your land.

With Christmas creeping up on us once again, it's just as well to read the airgun laws if you're considering giving a rifle or pistol as a present.

Most airgun suppliers have leaflets published by the Shooting Sports Trust which will be a great help — and they're free! I recommend that you read it again occasionally even if you think you know the Laws.

I've noticed that one or two gunshops I've visited recently have run out of the leaflets — I hope they re-order them and continue to give them to their customers.

It's much better to be over-cautious when you go shooting. Airgunners not only have an image to consider, but it's also better to be safe than sorry.

AIRGUN SCENE

Wrexham's Gain

A new airgun repair and servicing shop with the appropriate name of Rucksack 'N' Rifle has opened in Wrexham. The shop already boasts an impressive display of airguns, pellets and other accessories.

Customers are welcome to browse and examine the Webley, Weihrauch, Sharp and Original air rifles and pistols at their leisure.

Some folk reckon that Alex McFarlane, the shop's resident airgun specialist, is to airguns what Barnes Wallis was to bouncing bombs! He's certainly happiest when he's talking shop to customers!

Proprietor Paul Hayes is aiming to create a specialist service for airgunners at his new shop in Abbot Street, and hopes that enthusiasts in North Wales will pay it a visit.

Rapid Fire Winners

What a great response to *Airgun World's* Rapid Fire Competition in our September issue!

The entries — most of them correct — flooded into our Windsor offices and it's been a really hard task separating the top ten winners from more than 1,500 entries!

Readers were asked to spot the eight differences between two sketches of an airgunner in action, and state in just 12 words why they would like to own the first prize of an Air Arms Rapide. Some of the tie-breaker lines were outstanding and selecting the winner hasn't been easy.

But after great deliberation, the first prize goes to Mr. Peter Davies of Windermere in Cumbria. Asked why he'd like an Air Arms Rapide, he wrote because 'Reliable Automatic Pellet Injection Does Facilitate Instant Rodent Extermination'. Combine the first letter of each word and it spells Rapid Fire — the title of our competition!

Mr. Davies will now receive post haste a superb Air Arms Rapide in .22 calibre, which has been engineered for full power and fitted with a unique semi-automatic loading system that enables you to fire 30 pellets without having to reload. The beautiful woodwork, chequered pistol grip and raised cheek piece makes this a superbly stylish rifle.

Together with the 6 X 32 scope and ring mounts, a silencer and gun bag, this fabulous prize is worth £171.60!

The second prize of an Air Arms Firepower, which is also in .22 calibre, is won by Nicholas Smith, who lives in South East London. His superb package comes with an ABS stock, fully adjustable sights, sling swivels and features the crack auto-loading system that's so vital for quarry hunting. This second prize is worth £108!

Peter Newman of Lyme Regis in Dorset takes the third prize of an Air Arms Woodsman valued at £95.

The complete list of prizewinners is as follows: Air Arms Rapide: P. Davies, Windermere, Cumbria. Air Arms Firepower: N. Smith, London. Air Arms Woodsman: P. Newman, Lyme Regis, Dorset. Seven exclusive Air Arms T-shirts: W. Hay, Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland; G. Gamble, Hillsborough, N. Ireland; R. Hewitt, Ringwood, Hampshire; S. Mellor, Ilkeston, Derbyshire; B. Jenkins, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury; D. Flint, Basingstoke, Hampshire; N. Tembe, Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Chatsworth Champs

On-form shooters at the Chatsworth Country Fair in early September were Men's winner Paul Derby and wildlife artist Pollyanna Pickering, who topped the Ladies' section. Prizes were presented by Beoly Ashley on behalf of the sponsors of the Air Rifle Competition, Thermal K. Shield.

New Team Record



Tessa Lunn in fine form.

Congratulations to the British Ladies team who competed in the World Airweapons Target Championships at Innsbruck in September. They achieved a new team record of 1131 ex 1200!

Although neither Sarah Cooper (384), Irene Daw (377), or Tessa Lunn (371) were individually placed this was still a fine performance.

U.K. Presence

The largest shooting, hunting and outdoor trade show in the world is to take place at the Dallas Convention Centre in the United States from January 12 to 14 next year.

To enable British manufacturers and suppliers to benefit, the British Overseas Trade Board have agreed to support a Joint Venture Group — which will include names like BSA — under the sponsorship of the Camping and Outdoor Leisure Association.

There will be 800 exhibitors occupying over eight acres of space on both floors of the Convention Centre. Over 20,000 trade-only buyers will attend the show from the United States and 30 other countries.

These buyers represent a U.S. 2 billion dollar market for firearms, ammunition, shooting, hunting and archery products, plus camping and other outdoor accessories.

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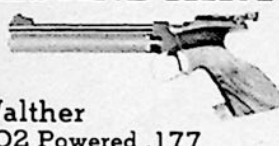
LATEST
"AIR MATCH"
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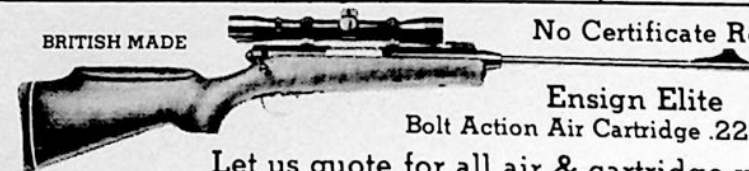
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Let us quote for all air & cartridge weapons

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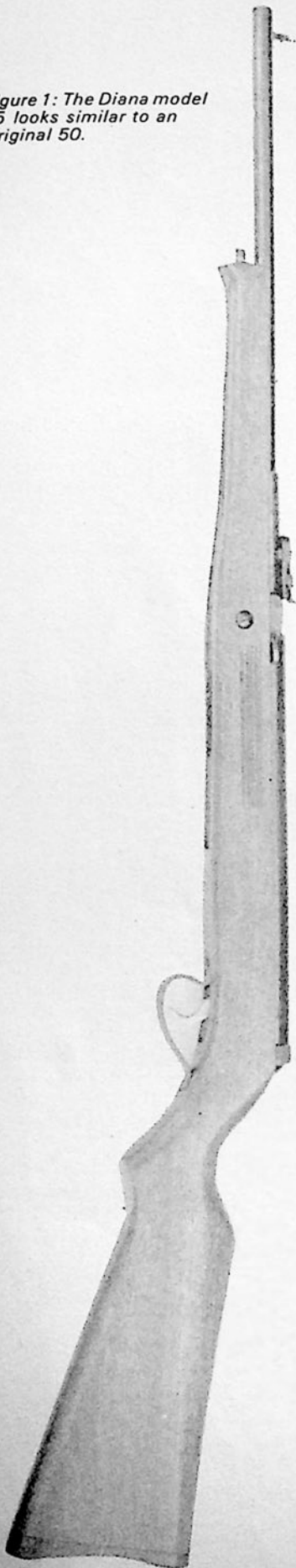
May of London

(Gunmakers) Ltd
35 Cherry Tree Rise,
Buckhurst Hill, Essex.
Telephone: 01-504 5946



AIRGUN

Figure 1: The Diana model 55 looks similar to an Original 50.



DESIGNING and lovingly sculpting your own stock adds that marvellous personal touch to an air rifle.

This is certainly the feeling I have about my Diana model 55, which I refurbished with a stock that I had the pleasure in making from scratch.

As you can see in *Figure 1*, my model 55 is very similar in appearance to the Original 50 with its forend extending almost to the muzzle.

You will remember that last month I took you through the early and middle stages of making a personal stock. And now I'm going to complete the job with a touch of finesse.

To finish the final pattern shape properly it's best to use sandpaper, a spoke shave and rasp and, of course, never forget to constantly refer to your borrowed pattern.

The plan I used was of an Original 50, and it's virtually a replica, even though I say it myself! There is one exception, however, I used mahogany — not beechwood.

Of course you can design your own pattern and use a stock to model the action fitting on. Once this operation is complete you can style the stock exactly as *you* want it!

The possibilities are endless! Raised cheek pieces and combs, pistol grips to fit your hand to perfection, widened or lengthened forends and don't forget you can re-balance your airgun, too.

Too complicated? Never! If you're a beginner in the world of carpentry and taking the first faltering steps along the

road to shaping wood, you'll be amazed at just how quickly the basic dream outline appears. But an important first tip is to make sure you allow enough wood for extras such as high combs and lower pistol grips.

A good way to start designing the pistol grip is to use plasticene: Soften some and put it on the grip of your stock. Then hold the rifle in the firing position and squeeze the plasticene until it fits your hand perfectly.

Allow the plasticene to cool, and then slice it carefully down the centre so that you have two halves with the shapes of your hand moulded to them.

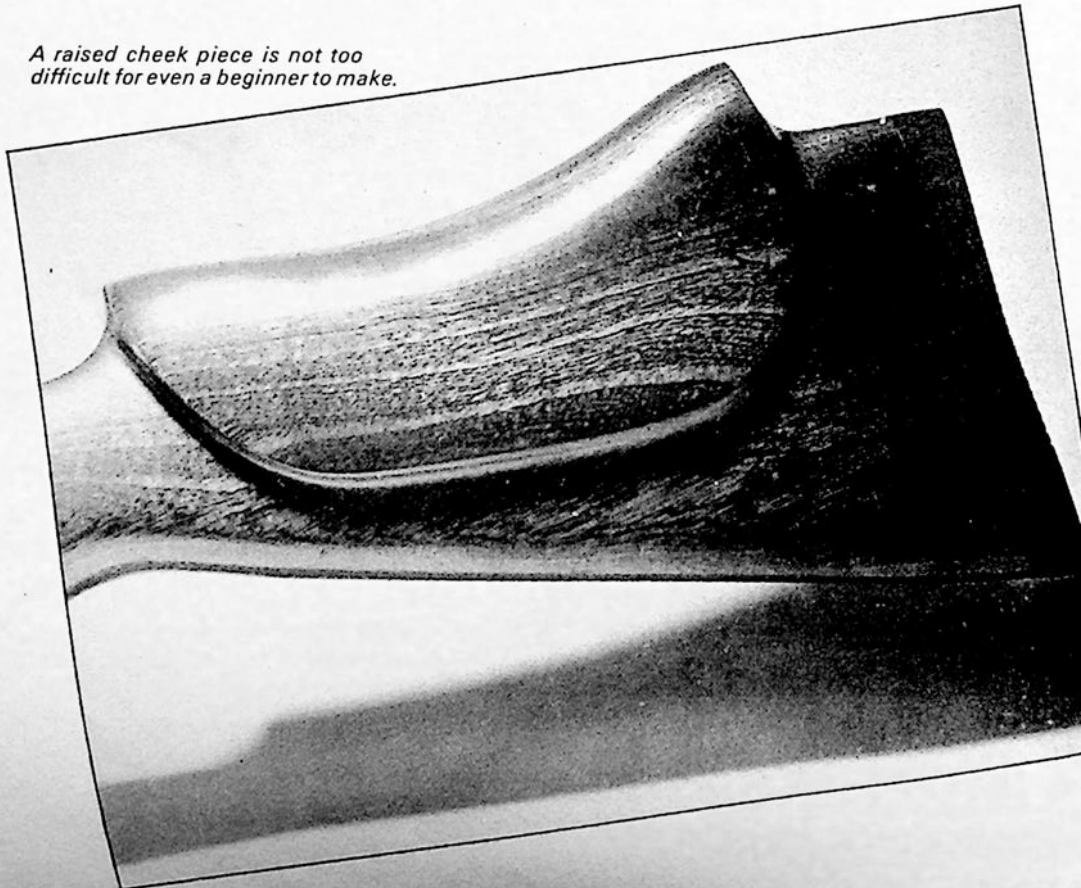
These imprints will look pretty awful, but remember they are only a rough guide to help you to carve out the necessary finger grooves in the new wood.

Although thumb hole stocks look very hard to shape, they aren't any more difficult to make than standard ones. You must make sure, however, that you allow enough wood around the hole for strength, because it's heartbreaking to spend hours on a stock only to see it fall apart at the slightest knock!

Figure 2 shows how the hole is shaped on the right hand side of the gun — the opposite side applies for left-handers. The gradual half-cone is rasped out up to the hole and then the opposite side is reversed so that the half-cone is pointing backwards, thus allowing the thumb to grip comfortably.

The raised comb in this example folds over to the right hand side of the stock — it's attractive but not necessary!

A raised cheek piece is not too difficult for even a beginner to make.



WORKSHOP

Making a stock Part 2 with Eddie Barber

I must confess to being a miserable failure when it comes to chequering and I'd advise you to practice on some scrap wood before tackling the masterpiece. You can buy proper chequering tools from good gunsmiths, such as Helston Gunsmiths in Cornwall.

The person who chequered my stock isn't a stockmaker, but does a fine job using old sharpened files — how I envy him his skill!

Balancing the stock at the forend can be done by carefully drilling the interior. Drill about 12 holes of approximately 6 mm. in diameter — but take extra care not to drill right through the stock. Then fill the holes with .22 lead pellets until the balance feels right.

When you think it's perfect, seal the pellets in the stock with glue. Alternatively, you can insert lead strips in a carefully cut recess, or fit a barrel weight.

It's unlikely that a heavy custom stock will require weighting at the butt. If you feel it necessary to do so, though, drill out a recess — which will be covered by the butt plate — and fill it in with the required number of lead pellets.

Fill any excess space with paper before screwing on the butt plate — this extra store of pellets will ensure you'll never run out of ammunition!

The butt plate should be made of wood and preferably of a different kind to the stock. If you stain the butt black and insert a white plastic spacer between the butt and the stock, you'll get an attractive and professional finish.

To prevent the gun slipping if it's

Soft plasticine is the ideal mould to style your own grip on.



The G 96 Complete Gun Stock Finishing Kit.

propped up against a wall, fit a couple of the small rubber feet often used on the base of record players, these will also provide a grip on clothing while shooting.

Rubber anti-recoil pads are available from gunshops if you prefer, but these must be shaped to the butt during the shaping of the stock — and not as an afterthought!

The final finish is entirely a matter of individual taste — some like a high gloss, others a matt finish, which is easily obtained by rubbing in beeswax with your hands. The wood will be waterproofed and quite attractive. Clean hands are essential, though!

There is a wide variety of wood finishes on the market which will produce a

lasting, shiny surface. Varnish, shellac and some lacquers will chip, however, unless they're part of a specialist range of high quality products.

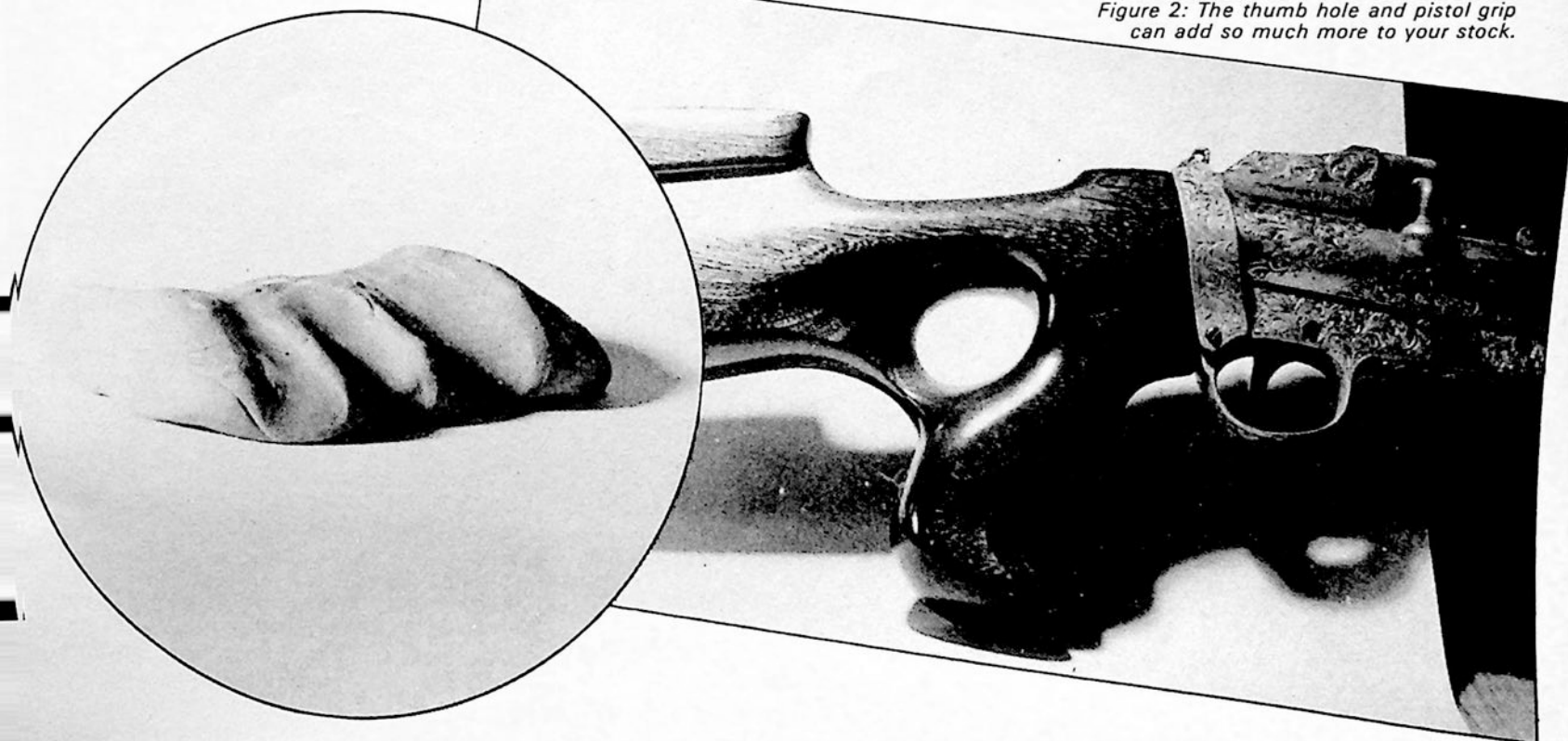
I recommend an amateur french polish like Furniglass, or one of the specialised gunstock finish kits, such as Birchwood Casey, and the G 96 kit.

These kits are comprehensive and contain sealers, primers, wood fillers and stains, as well as easy-to-follow instructions.

Basically though, the more time you spend on the final rubbing down and polishing, the better the end result.

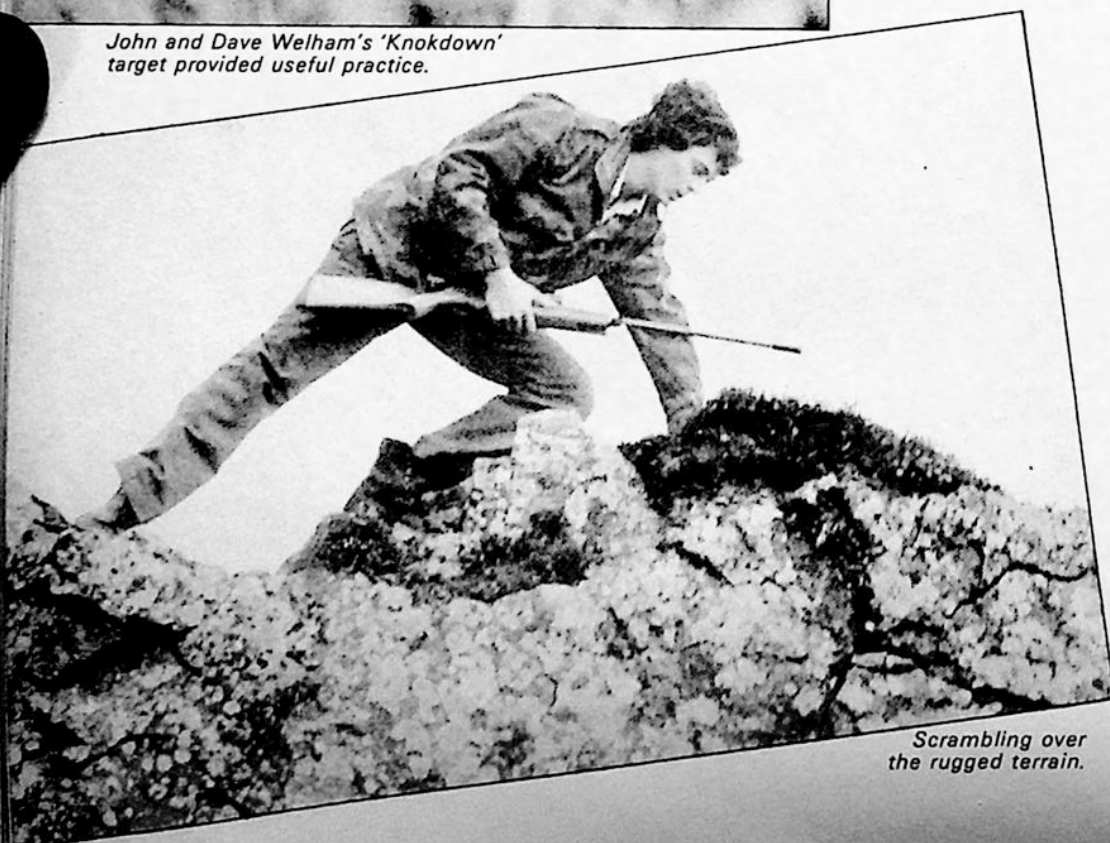
Finally, if you really want to personalise your rifle or pistol, have it engraved!

Figure 2: The thumb hole and pistol grip can add so much more to your stock.





John and Dave Welham's 'Knokdown' target provided useful practice.



Scrambling over the rugged terrain.

Welham's Knock 'Em Down

By

James Marchington

THE WELHAM family are well known on the outdoor target shooting circuit. In fact the sight of their name on the entry list is enough to worry the top shots because the Welhams have a habit of taking the prizes!

Part of their secret is dedication — they must have fired literally thousands of pellets at knock-down targets of various shapes and sizes.

It's difficult to think of anyone better qualified than the Welhams to tell a good knock-down target from a bad one — so I wasn't surprised to discover that the Welham brothers, Dave and John, had gone into business designing and building their own targets.

The Welham's 'Knokdown' targets, as they call them, are rather different from other silhouette targets on the market — although they look very similar from the front. They have the familiar cut-out metal shapes of rabbits, rats, pigeons etc. and fall backwards when you put a pellet through the 1¾ ins. diameter 'kill zone' — but that's where the similarity ends!

Look behind the target face and at the 'guts' of the target and you'll see that the mechanism has been completely re-designed. The 'kill' disc is on a cleverly designed metal bar which locks the silhouette upright.

When you hit the disc, the force of the pellet drives it backwards and knocks the silhouette over by means of a projecting bar at the rear.

The system works very efficiently and I didn't find the target sticking when I hit the disc, which sometimes happens with early designs of knock-down targets.

This is very important, not just because it's annoying to make a clean shot and see the target still vertical, but also because you must have clean, positive kills in a competition — otherwise competitors feel they're being cheated.

I decided to take the test target with me on holiday in the Scottish Highlands and give it a thorough trial.

I was staying in a caravan, which overlooked rough pasture land, and I set up the target about 25 yards from the caravan door, where I could pot away at it whenever the mood took me.

In fact it kept me amused when the weather took a turn for the worse because I could shoot from just inside the door!

The 'Knokdown' target is very easy to set up. You simply anchor it firmly on level ground with two metal pegs which are provided. You attach the nylon cord to the swivel — and then you're ready!

I was pleased to see that the Welhams have used a piece of metal wire at the target end of the reset cord, so it will withstand the wear of rubbing against the edge of the metal silhouette.

Another advantage their target has over other designs is that it takes very little effort to reset after you've made a kill. I can remember some of the early *Airgun World* field shooting competitions when you had to pull so hard to reset the longer range targets that the string kept breaking!

All in all, the 'Knokdown' is a cleverly thought out and well-made piece of equipment, and I reckon the Welhams are justifiably proud of their product.

'Have fun', said John Welham when he sent me the test model, 'the target you're using is the best'. Well, I certainly did have fun, and I can't deny that the 'Knokdown' takes a lot of beating. The £17.50 price tag is also pretty reasonable.

There's just one little thing that could be improved, however. The 'Knokdown', like all silhouette targets, soon loses its paint after a few hits in the same place, and very quickly it becomes difficult to see where the silhouette ends and the kill zone begins.

This is a problem with all targets of this type, and it's difficult to see how it can be avoided. Still, if anyone can solve it, I'm sure the Welhams can!

After potting away for hours from the doorway of my caravan, I decided to have a go at the real thing.

Rats aren't much of a problem in the area where I was staying, but there are plenty of rabbits — even though that horrible disease, myxomatosis, had swept through last year. It's amazing how quickly rabbits can regain their numbers after the population has taken a real bashing.

Stalking in the Highlands is very different to shooting on my normal territory. Instead of flat fields, with hedgerows and woods for cover, I had to adapt my technique to cope with steep slopes and rocky outcrops. What's more, the gorse bushes on the hillsides are 10 times more prickly than the worst southern thistles!



Taking refuge from the elements by shooting from my caravan door!



Poised for another shot at my quarry.

I soon found that the banks and hollows provided plenty of opportunities to approach my quarry undetected, and before long I was looking at a rabbit's head through the optics of my 4 X 40 scope.

My target was about 25 yards away — exactly the same distance as the knockdown target I had been practising on.

I tightened my finger confidently on the Sirocco's trigger, feeling confident of a clean kill.

I could hardly believe my eyes when the rabbit bolted at my shot with hardly a hair out of place. What could possibly have gone wrong?

I sat and thought about the shot, and then decided to fire a few test shots from the same position and in the same direction.

I saw what had happened immediately. When I zeroed my gun on the silhouette target I had forgotten to allow for the wind, which was blowing from my right. I was facing the other way when I fired at the rabbit so the error was doubled. I must have missed the rabbit's head by at least three inches. I thought to myself: 'That'll teach me to be over-confident!'

Once I knew what I had done wrong, I was able to re-zero the sights — and I made a mental note to think carefully about the wind direction in future.

Then I was back on the track of my quarry. Another rabbit bolted from under my feet as I walked through some long grass — the next one wasn't so lucky.

I spotted it about 300 yards away, feeding at the foot of an outcrop of rock. My quarry had no idea it was being watched and I was able to work out an approach route that would take me within range.

I crept carefully up to the edge of a rock, making sure I would not be silhouetted against the sky. The rabbit was still feeding and showed no signs of alarm. I took careful aim, this time allowing an inch and a half because of the wind blowing from my right hand side.

The pellet struck with a resounding smack. The rabbit dropped without a shudder, still clenching a blade of grass between its teeth.

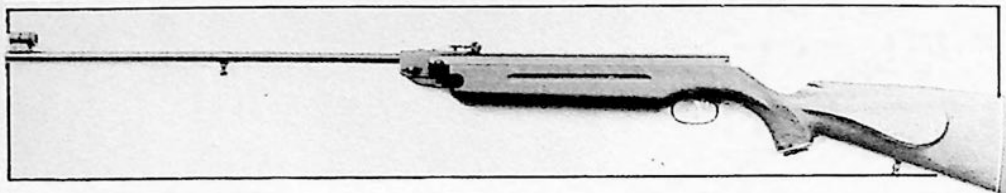
That wasn't the only rabbit I killed on my Highland holiday, but I reckon it was the most satisfying — and it certainly made a tasty stew on the caravan stove that evening!

Any Questions . . .

Send your airgun queries to:

JOHN STEVENS, AIRGUN WORLD, 10 SHEET STREET,
WINDSOR, BERKSHIRE SL4 1BG

John Stevens and Airgun World regret that it is not possible to answer every single question received. However, we shall publish answers or send personal replies to as many readers as we can — especially if you enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.



Does the Weihrauch HW35 E have enough power?

More Power Please

I'm interested in buying the most powerful airgun on the market within the 12 ft. lbs. legal limit — and it has to be strong and reliable, too.

Although I have seen articles in *Airgun World* stating that the Feinwerkbau Sport and HW35E have a maximum power of 11.5 ft. lbs., I need a rifle that shoots closer to the 12 ft. lbs. limit.

I already have a Webley Vulcan deluxe, and want something with the same power. Can you suggest a suitable gun?

Paul Harris,
Northfleet, Kent.

While I understand that power is a very important feature of an airgun, are you sure you aren't putting too much emphasis on this particular area?

If you can tell the difference between 11.5 ft. lbs. and 12 ft. lbs. without a chronograph, you are a better judge than I am!

My advice is to buy either the Feinwerkbau Sport or the Weihrauch HW35 Export. They are two of the finest spring air rifles available with power right up to the legal limit.

Time Warp

I've recently bought a Feinwerkbau Sport .177 air rifle for £87. It doesn't have a chequered grip or a rubber recoil pad and it also occurred to me that it might have an inferior performance to the Mk.2.

I contacted ASI and they replied: 'This does seem to be one of our guns as they all have chequering on the grip, sling swivels and a rubber recoil pad'. They suggested it might be a late 1980 model.

Have I bought a new gun which is three years old?

E. Breakspear,
Louth, Lincolnshire.

It sounds to me as though you have purchased a standard Feinwerkbau Sport. This differs from the deluxe in that it has a plain stock and doesn't have sling swivels as a standard fitting.

Don't despair, though, the performance of both the standard and deluxe models are identical — the same can be said of the Mk.1 and Mk.2 weapons.

Pellet Poser

I bought an Airsporter S recently and I have struggled to find a suitable pellet to use in the field. I've tried the BSA Pylarm pellet — said to be designed for my rifle — but I don't use them for hunting because they're described as 'plinkers' ammo' in the 1983 *Airgun Annual*.

I've tried a great variety of pellets but still can't find the right one for me. Is there an easy solution to my problem?

I'd also like to know if it's worth tuning my gun for more power, and if so, how much more power do I need?

David Laker,

Goring-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

One of the many peculiarities with airguns is that a pellet can work better with one make of rifle than another. Generally speaking, though, the larger diameter of the English pellets suit your Airsporter S.

I suggest that you try another tin of BSA Pylarm pellets and some Eley Wasps, too. Unfortunately there's no easy answer and you'll have to use the old trial and error method to see which pellet gives the best results.

It's always worth while having your air rifle tuned because you will reap the rewards of consistency, accuracy, smoothness and reduction in wear and tear.

Rekindled Interest

My interest in airguns was rekindled last year when I happened to pick up a copy of *Airgun World* in Newport, South Wales, where I was on holiday from Indonesia. My old airgun was an Airsporter, which I sold in 1960.

On my return to Indonesia, I bought an Airsporter Mk.6 for £165. The scope for airgunners is tremendous in my country and air rifles are very popular, particularly the Benjamin Franklin pump-ups. The Laws are lenient, too.

I also bought a Carton 4 X 20 scope in Singapore, but I find it impossible to achieve a better grouping than 2½ ins. by 1½ ins., even when the rifle is on a sandbag or camera tripod.

I've tried most pellets, Eley Wasps and RWS Diabolo being the most accurate, but I must admit that the scope mounts leave a lot

to be desired.

This apart, please tell me whether I would be better off buying a tuned Webley Vulcan or BSA Mercury rather than an off-the-shelf Feinwerkbau or Weihrauch HW35 Export?

I find my Airsporter very harsh and I believe break-barrels have more scope for hunting pellets, too.

Is it possible to use Prometheus and Sabo pellets in a Sterling HR83? And are Sterling Arms' Bisley rifles British made?

A. Hopgood,
Medan, Indonesia.

You are always better off buying a properly tuned air rifle, regardless of the make. You cannot use SABO pellets in a Sterling HR83, but the Prometheus pellets are all right.

Most scopes, including the model you mentioned, are made in the Far East and are marketed under British and American brand names.

Every Parent's Dilemma

I want to buy an airgun, but my father isn't in favour — he feels that guns are dangerous and doesn't realise that there are serious shooters, and mindless hooligans bent on vandalism are in a minority.

I read your reply to Paul Brothwood's letter in the March issue of *Airgun World*, but I don't think it will help me because my father doesn't believe in hunting and vermin control. He sees them as the mindless slaughter of innocent animals.

Can you give me some ideas which might help me to change my father's outlook on airguns and hunting?

James Bell,
Hamilton, Lanarkshire.

While I sympathise, I'm sure that there's very little I can offer which will change your father's views. He is, after all, perfectly entitled to his opinion and until you reach 18 he is equally entitled to impress his opinion upon you.

Despite this, what better argument than to say that our own Royal Family not only fully support country sports, but also participate in them.

This might convince your father that country sports are pursued by responsible people.

Blown Out Tornado

I've owned a Relum Super Tornado for more than a year and at first its power was exceptional. But now it has lost so much 'punch' that I can't kill a pigeon with a head shot at 20 yards!

I've stripped down the rifle and fitted a new piston head and mainsprings in the hope of solving the problem — but still no luck.

I'm too scared to take a shot in case I wound my quarry, but I can't afford to buy a new gun. Please help!

G. Smith,
Preston, Lancashire.

You have investigated the two most common areas responsible for power loss, so I'm afraid that I can't throw any light on the matter without examining the rifle. Perhaps it needs proper lubrication, possibly a thin coat of Abbey LT2 grease on the spring and a few drops of Abbey SM50 to lubricate the piston in the compression chamber.

*If this fails I think that your only course of action is to take the gun to a specialist who advertises in *Airgun World*.*

Weihrauch Barrel Droop

My Weihrauch HW35 seems to have a bent barrel. I noticed this when I fitted a scope and found that the rifle was firing low, and there wasn't enough adjustment on the scope to correct it.

I know that the scope isn't at fault, because it worked perfectly on my Sharp Innova.

Is this a common fault on the HW35 — and if I buy a new barrel, would a 22-inch one be more likely to bend than a 19½-inch one?

Neil Smith,
Orkney, Scotland.

This problem is fairly common and may not be too serious.

If the barrel is actually bent, a decent gunsmith should be able to straighten it for you.

If the breech is set at an angle in the breech jaws, on the other hand, then you must raise the rear scope mount a little so that the scope is parallel with the barrel. You can do this easily enough by packing the rear scope mount out with a piece of bicycle inner tube.

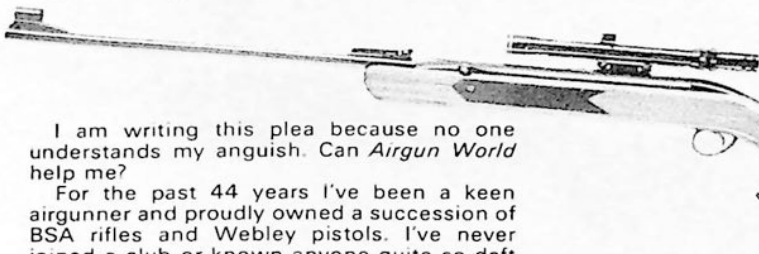
If you do have to fit a new barrel, then the longer one would be more prone to bending in theory — but not in practice.

AIR YOUR VIEWS

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

THE EDITOR
AIRGUN WORLD
10 SHEET STREET
WINDSOR
BERKSHIRE SL4 1BG

Agonising Theft



Bob Mill sacrificed his Airsporter for the BSA.

I am writing this plea because no one understands my anguish. Can *Airgun World* help me?

For the past 44 years I've been a keen airgunner and proudly owned a succession of BSA rifles and Webley pistols. I've never joined a club or known anyone quite so daft about airguns as myself. I've just quietly plinked, fired at targets and done a little hunting over the years.

My biggest thrill, though, has come from simply looking after the weapons and showing them off to anyone who takes even the slightest interest in my hobby.

But the reason for my anguish stems from the day BSA decided to celebrate their centenary by issuing a special Piled arms rifle. I saved hard and sacrificed my Airsporter 'S' and Webley pistol to the cause. I ordered the rifle and almost haunted my gunshop until it arrived. When it did, I religiously looked after it and showed the gun to all my visitors.

In July I went on holiday to Scotland and

decided to take my rifle with me just in case the house was burgled during our absence. I parked my car in Glasgow for an hour and left the rifle with its scope and case inside.

My car was broken into and, of course, my pride and joy was pinched, and the thieves left binoculars and luggage completely untouched!

As an avid *Airgun World* reader, I implore your other readers to look out for this BSA centenary rifle which is numbered CO414.

The police have been informed, but I thought I should do something myself. Please look out for it!

Bob Mill,
Sunderland, Tyne and Wear.

Royal Windsor Success

As a major sponsor of the airgun shooting competition at the Royal Windsor Show, I would like to express our concern about comments made by Mr A. Thorne in *Airgun World's* August issue.

Mr Thorne said the range was a 'joke' with the farthest target being only 25 yards away. At London Gun Company, we felt that the competition should be something that everyone could enjoy, whether they are experts or novices, and so we organised our layout with this in mind.

From Mr Thorne's tone, he would obviously have shot a full 10 with these close targets, but we were trying to cater for the average shooter. The success of this policy is borne out by the fact that one of the three major prize winners was a 15-year-old boy who had never won anything in his life before. If Mr Thorne had seen the lad's expression of delight, I think he would have agreed that the event was a success.

The 50 pence entrance fee was justified, we feel, as £250 worth of prizes were there to be won. And the reason why Vulcans were supplied for all the shooters is that Webley were one of the sponsors. Not unreasonably, they wanted to bring their products to the public's attention.

I hope that Mr Thorne will not be too disappointed to learn that the great success of the competition has inspired us to do the same thing next year, too! The airgun shoot at the Royal Windsor Show next summer will be sponsored by The London Gun Company in conjunction with Webley, RWS Pellets and Paul Curtis Promotions.

Doug Florent,
London Gun Company, Greenford.

Scope Fascination

I've been a keen reader of *Airgun World* for three years and in that time I've been fascinated by the scopes and sights airgunners use in semi-darkness and even in complete darkness.

Recently I bought a copy of *Brassey's Infantry Weapons for NATO*, and I came across an interesting section on night-sights.

One of the sights that was mentioned was a Twilight Night Sight. It is a fore-sight and contains glass capsules of phosphorous and tritium — an isotope of hydrogen — and it's a mixture which glows. The tritium lets-off low energy beta-particles — electrons — which strike the phosphor, causing it to light up.

This mixture is called Beta-light and is made by Saunders Roe Developments. These elements have a half-life of between eight and 10 years, although the Army replace them far more regularly, of course.

The elements come in various sizes and colours. I recommend the green and yellow 'lights', though, as they are easy to see, and cheap.

This is an interesting concept as so many people these days either carry a torch or buy an extremely expensive night sight for shooting in the dark.

Iain Berry,
Thornhill, Stirlingshire,
Scotland.

Game Fair Shame

Shame on you *Airgun World*! If we Scots can trek south for the Game Fair four years in every five, to your land of "Ecky Thump", *Coronation Street*, flat caps and even flatter beer — then surely you can allow yourself the decided pleasure of visiting out beautiful country. It's only once every five years, after all.

S. Rankin,
Kilmarnock, Scotland.

Combat Rabies!

David Lane quite obviously missed out on his own horror story in his *Rat Catcher with a Rifle* article in *Airgun World's* August issue.

David mentioned the successful fiction novel and film *The Rats*, and then went on to describe French grey rats which were twice the size of Norwegian browns or British black rats.

I've never been so pleased to see another airgunner take the sound advice given in previous articles of *Airgun World* and not handle these rats when they've just been shot. They're one of the few creatures which are immune to rabies, but can still carry this fearful disease.

I'd venture to suggest that David obtains a 'definitely dead' grey rat and takes it to a virology laboratory for tests, as this may account for the loss of pet animals in the area — and humans may follow.

I must point out that rabies can lie dormant for up to two years, so take no chances with it. This is definitely one situation where airgunners can really show their worth to both their community and country. And in turn it helps to fight off the many airgun-knockers and anti-lobbiers.

Co-operation with the veterinary authorities and police will help stamp out these rats and for once we will get public support.

William McIntosh,
Glasgow, Scotland.

Best of British

I would like to thank the BSA factory at Birmingham for supplying me with an Airsporter 'S' which has given me outstanding performances in the field.

Well done BSA on producing a rifle with the best of British craftsmanship!

Phillip Taylor,
Redditch, Worcestershire.

A Sad Loss

It was with great sorrow that I read Ronald Robertson's letter in Any Questions in the September issue of *Airgun World*.

So Millards have 'killed-off' Diana air rifles and pistols. As someone who has had a lot of pleasure from the Diana Model 25, of the 1966 vintage, and tried out the G 80 on Army ranges it makes me very sad.

Diana rifles and pistols were excellent value and an unsung hero of the 'fun shooter' or less affluent vermin hunter. I've bagged quite a few rabbits with a Diana in my time, and when asked to clear some pigeon from inside a building, I had no hesitation in picking my Diana to carry out the job.

As an aside, Mr Robinson might find that at £2 for 500, Webley's 'Flying Scott' pellets make an excellent alternative for his Caledonian ammo. I find that they give a tight group at a reasonable range, and you will not find many deformed pellets in the tin, either. Indeed, I've had 2,000 of them and haven't had to throw one out yet!

D. Vygus,
Crawley, Sussex.

Airgun Idiots? — Never!

In July's issue of *Airgun World*, David Hadley criticised Mr Green's letter which featured in the May issue.

I take David's point when he says there is an element of careless young airgunners, but I hope that he, and many others, do not believe all youngsters are irresponsible with air weapons.

I'm a very enthusiastic airgunner and have been hunting for three years now, and I'm certainly not irresponsible.

Stuart Kiddy,
Haverhill, Suffolk.

Arthur Shepherd looks at a trio of Noricas and the BSF 50

Country

THE PROBLEM with field testing air rifles and accessories properly is that the whole operation takes up so much time.

The equipment should be tried out in every weather condition possible, at different times of the year and, particularly in the case of air rifles, using a wide variety of pellets against various quarry species.

I make this point because I seem to have acquired a full house of airguns and equipment that I've been asked to thoroughly test in the field.

With the best will in the world, though, and with the time I have available, I can only give you my somewhat superficial 'first impressions' of an airgun. And like all tests of this nature, my conclusions are more subjective than objective — unlike a scientifically controlled examination.

For instance, a rifle which I find to be just the right weight and balance may be too heavy for a seven stones weakling or a very young shooter, and too light for a hulking 20 stones rugby forward.

With a house full of guns to pick from, the first rifles I carefully looked at recently were a trio of Norica rifles, which are made in Spain and imported by Gunmark Limited, of Fareham. Over the years Gunmark have built an excellent reputation for both importing and distributing quality shotguns and accessories.

All three of these Noricas were of excellent quality, attractively finished, with enough power and accuracy to knock over a rabbit at 30 yards.

Top of the range is the Model 80, which weighs a shade over 6½ lbs., measures 43 ins. long, has a fully adjustable trigger with a manual safety catch, interchangeable hooded foresight and a rearsight adjustable for elevation and windage.

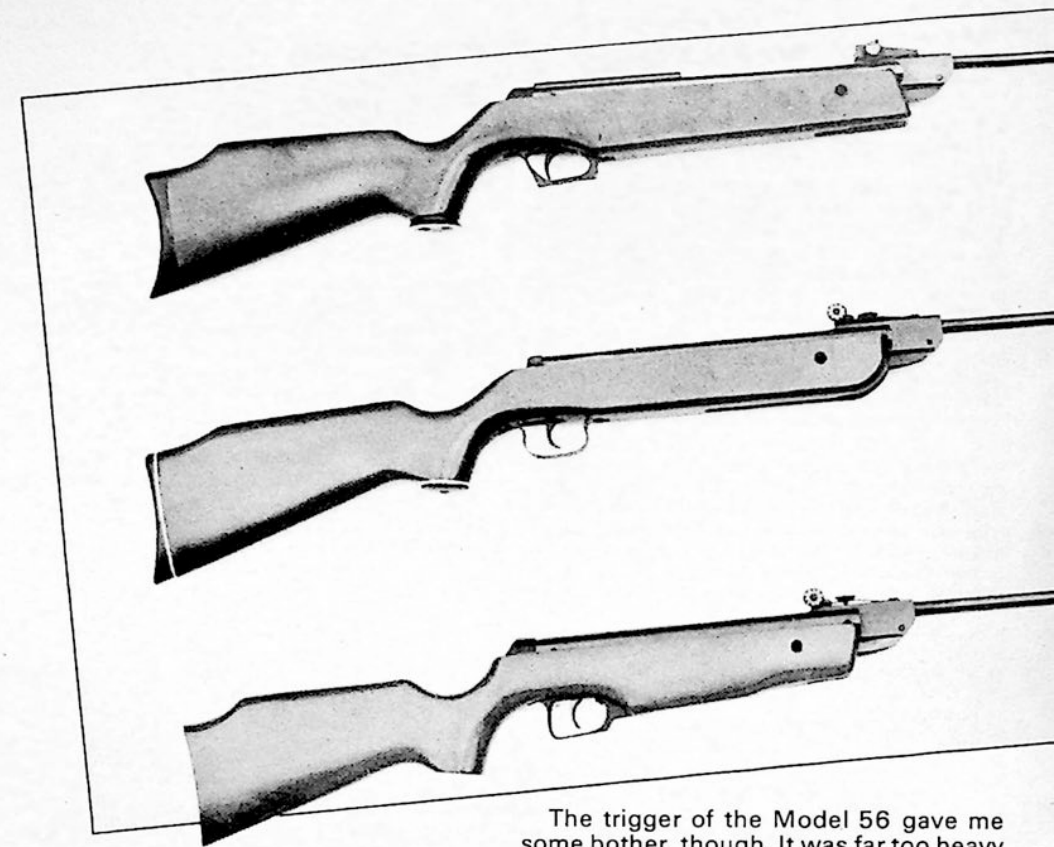
All the models have scope rails, too, and no doubt most shooters will fit a scope on the air rifles as soon as they have the chance.

The Monte Carlo stock is shaped out of quality beech wood. It has a raised cheek plate and is fitted with a plastic butt plate and a pistol grip cap. The trigger guard is also plastic, incidentally.

The Model 73 which I tested in .177 calibre, as opposed to the 80's .22 calibre, is a slightly shorter and lighter version than its senior model. But I strongly suspect that it has the same mechanical structure because it gives the same power.

The differences, though, are marked. The Model 73 has a metal trigger guard, no safety catch and a lighter coloured stock with some slight modifications to the shape. It has attractive white spacers, though, between the wood and plastic on both the butt plate and pistol grip cap.

Going down the scale a little, the Model 56 is not as powerful, but still has



that vital punch. It can be used with confidence against normal airgun quarry, even if at a slightly shorter range.

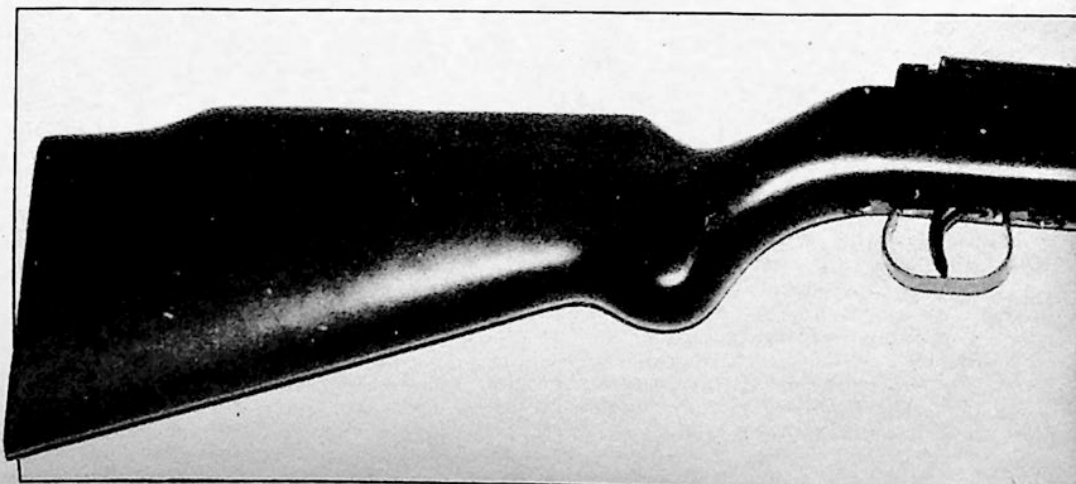
Weighing only 5 lbs. and measuring just 37½ ins. long, this model is most suitable for young shooters. The finish is excellent and enhanced by the quality wood, but it has only a full adjustable rearsight, though.

Although the trigger pulls on the two top range models were reasonable — if not up to the standard of the top German rifles — they are adjustable and sensitive enough to use in the field.

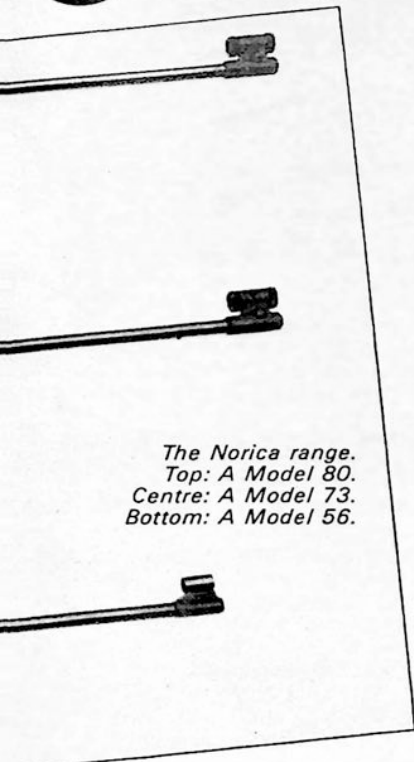
The trigger of the Model 56 gave me some bother, though. It was far too heavy for an adult, never mind a youngster! But enquiries revealed that the problem could be solved by a competent gunsmith, who had the relatively simple job of adjusting the pull to a suitable pressure. It was recommended to me that the pull should be adjusted when you buy the rifle.

All three Noricas are break-barrel guns and cocking and loading present no problems. One feature, though, that I did find a little disconcerting at first was the breech end of the barrel.

It isn't shaped to match the end of the air chamber, so even when the gun is fully closed it stands proud of the chamber,



Gun



The Norica range.
Top: A Model 80.
Centre: A Model 73.
Bottom: A Model 56.

giving the impression that the barrel has failed to shut properly.

The Norica range doesn't pretend to rub shoulders with the air rifle elite, but they're perfectly satisfactory, and indeed, above average airguns. With prices ranging from £31 for the Model 56 to £51.75 for the Model 80, they're extremely good value.

I have no hesitation in recommending the Noricas as field air rifles and when they're fitted with one of Gunmark's new Fontaine scopes, they'll hold their own against most other hunting rifles.

Another air rifle that I've found time to test recently is the BSF 50, which has never won the accolades that it has deserved over the years.

The air rifle is made in Bavaria and imported by Highgate Optical. I tested

the .177 calibre version and it's a delightful little rifle with a well shaped stock, slim grip and forend — I found the balance perfect.

The finger grooves in the forend help the grip, and judging by the way it knocked over rabbits, the power is well up towards the legal limit of 12 ft. lbs.

As far as I can see, the trigger is not adjustable, but this has little consequence as the gun is light, has a positive let-off — as good as any rifle I've tried — and once it got over its initial fit of 'diesels' it proved extremely accurate, too.

The BSF 50 is another air rifle that would suit the younger enthusiast because it measures only 42 ins. long and weighs in at roughly 6½ lbs. But having said that, there's no reason why the older shooter shouldn't use it, too, especially the Model 55: this is the .22 up-market version and has an adjustable trigger, I believe.

Extra quality costs money, as is so often the case these days, and the BSF models retail at about £70 — over twice the price of the Norica Model 56.

Airgun World always makes interesting reading and I was particularly fascinated to read a couple of letters in the September issue.

The first was from Hugh Baldwin of Northwich, Cheshire, who criticised the article which mentioned my keen shooting of moorhens and my reluctance to bag either rooks or starlings.

Hugh is upset that I chose to kill moorhens, claiming that they cause little damage and there are very few of them anyway. Well, to answer the first of his points, there are many moorhens in my 'neck of the woods' in no danger of extinction. I shoot them because they are much tastier than pigeon — not because they cause damage.

Mr. Baldwin goes on to say that rook shooting is necessary because they eat vast quantities of seed and their numbers would increase dramatically if they were not shot.

I concede on all his points, but he's forgetting one vital factor — rooks eat large quantities of insects and grubs which would cause crop damage.

As I've said before, I'm not sure whether the balance is in their favour or not, but I must admit I like to give rooks the benefit of the doubt. I'm always

reluctant to shoot rooks, except for the odd one which is on a post or a fence near a vulnerable crop. That sort of action deters the others!

Mr. Baldwin also claims that starlings are a menace, eating tons of grain and causing many thousands of pounds of damage every year. They are terribly messy and noisy, too, he adds.

Certainly starlings in city roosts cause a great deal of damage with their messy droppings, but in the country they spend most of their time foraging for beetles, insects and grubs, like the rooks. They will also feed out of troughs or anywhere where stock is fed outdoors.

There are so many starlings that the odd one knocked out of the air makes very little difference. I'm not sure, however, that I subscribe to the ethic of using starlings as live targets just because they happen to be noisy and messy. You could say the same thing about puffins, gannets or penguins.

The second letter to catch my attention was from Mark Solomons of Hendon in North London, who accuses both David Lane and myself of recommending the use of air rifle mounted telescopic sights to view the surrounding countryside.

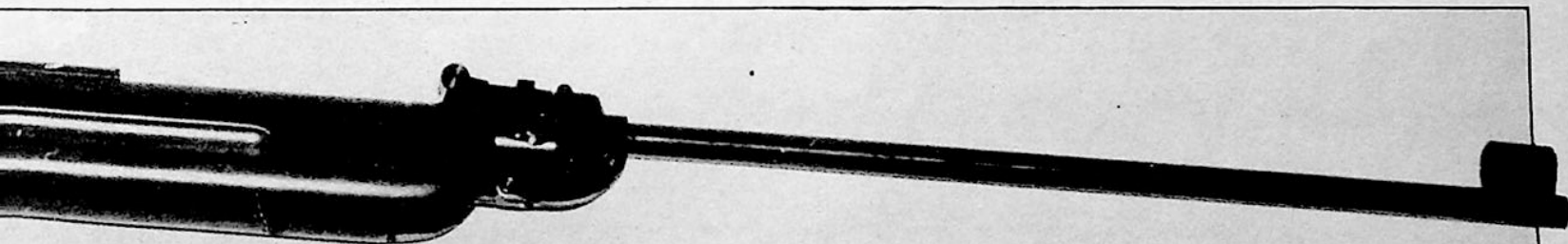
So far as I'm concerned, 'scanning' the darker corners of a derelict walled garden through my rifle scope is hardly using it as a substitute for binoculars. And one of the benefits of a telescopic sight is that it allows you to shoot in conditions when there is not enough light to use open sights.

In addition, the 'scanning' is carried out with an empty rifle which isn't loaded until the quarry is spotted. But Mark is absolutely right when he points out the dangers of using sights as a substitute for binoculars, especially if it leads you to wave your gun around like a watering can!

Not only is it more dangerous, but binoculars are more efficient anyway, as Jim Tyler pointed out in the September issue.

If Mark Solomons cares to look back through one or two back issues of *Airgun World*, he will see that I said that next to an air rifle and pellets most essential piece of equipment in the field was a good pair of binoculars.

All the same, though, Mark has a point and thank you for raising the subject.



The BSF 50 — a terrific little rifle that has deserved more in the way of accolades.



An 1820 advertisement for Joseph Bunney of Birmingham.

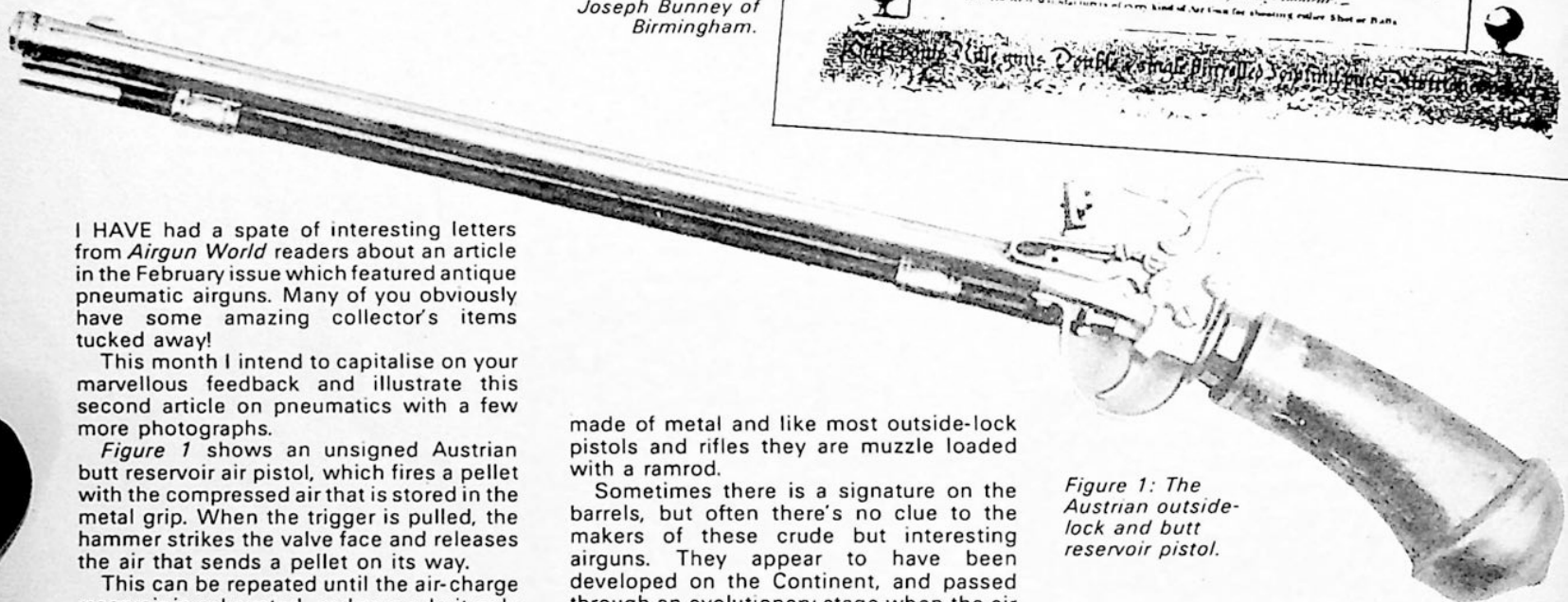


Figure 1: The Austrian outside-lock and butt reservoir pistol.

I HAVE had a spate of interesting letters from *Airgun World* readers about an article in the February issue which featured antique pneumatic airguns. Many of you obviously have some amazing collector's items tucked away!

This month I intend to capitalise on your marvellous feedback and illustrate this second article on pneumatics with a few more photographs.

Figure 1 shows an unsigned Austrian butt reservoir air pistol, which fires a pellet with the compressed air that is stored in the metal grip. When the trigger is pulled, the hammer strikes the valve face and releases the air that sends a pellet on its way.

This can be repeated until the air-charge reservoir is exhausted, and as a rule it only has enough air for just a few shots.

The model in the photograph is a real old timer — it's one of the most ancient ever featured in *Collector's Corner*! It dates back to around 1740, a time when airgunning was very popular in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

Ancient as it is, though, butt reservoir airguns were being produced more than 100 years before this one!

It's classified as an outside-lock type pistol and the photograph illustrates this perfectly, and as you can see, all the moving parts are on the outside of the plate, including the externally hung trigger.

The external lock mechanism made the replacement of broken springs and hammers an easy job, and the positioning of the parts ensured that there were no restrictions in the air-way. This meant the air could pass from the butt, through the receiver, and into the barrel without obstruction when the leather valve seal opened and the pistol was fired.

Most of these outside-lock airguns and pistols are smooth bored to about .4 ins. and some are fitted with wooden rather than metal barrels. The butts are cast from brass or iron and are usually leather covered for comfort. These can be screwed off and charged with air from a separate pump.

Apart from the valve seats and butt coverings, these weapons were generally

made of metal and like most outside-lock pistols and rifles they are muzzle loaded with a ramrod.

Sometimes there is a signature on the barrels, but often there's no clue to the makers of these crude but interesting airguns. They appear to have been developed on the Continent, and passed through an evolutionary stage when the air mechanism was concealed and the exterior designed to resemble a flint-lock.

The butt reservoir was also concealed — it was fitted with a normal wooden shoulder stock, but had a trap door in the butt plate for the pump connection.

This arrangement called for two valves: an intake valve inside the butt plate for retaining air in the reservoir and an outlet valve worked by the lock. All other types of butt reservoir airguns require only one valve, incidentally.

These 'prototypes' were further developed by the Austrians, and evolved into the Continental butt reservoir airguns which went on to gain widespread popularity.

Many of these early gunsmiths developing the butt reservoir system were great innovators. Take, for instance, designer Bartholomew Girandoni, who developed repeating mechanisms for both firearms and airguns.

The Girandoni breech loading system comprised a square transverse block drilled with a bullet chamber aligned with the air tube and barrel. When the gun is pointed skywards and the spring-loaded transverse block pushed to the right, a ball can pass from the tubular magazine, alongside the barrel, into the breach. The ball drops into the chamber and slots into the shooting position automatically when the spring realigns the block.

The Austrian Army used Girandoni's guns for more than 35 years, and because they were often produced under contract by Austrian gunmakers his name is found on the breech of guns made by the likes of Samuel H. Staudenmayer.

Staudenmayer migrated to London in about 1790, and brought with him an Austrian air rifle fitted with the Girandoni magazine. No one knows whether Staudenmayer was Austrian or German, but we know that he was one of the few London gunmakers who could rifle a barrel to the highest standard in the latter part of the 18th century.

He appears to have made barrels for John Manton initially, and went on to make other forms of magazine airguns — rifles holding 20 shots and pistols with eight-shot capacity tubular magazines.

Obviously a gunmaker like Staudenmayer had many imitators. His improvements to the butt reservoir airguns that he made in this country probably acted as a springboard for the ideas of British craftsmen.

It's more than likely that one of these craftsmen was Joseph Bunney, a gunmaker working in Birmingham and London at the same time as Staudenmayer.

Bunney & Son were also makers of improved magazine airguns with both butt

by John Atkins

and ball reservoirs. He too used a 20-shot magazine — the balls being fed into the barrel by a slight movement of the roller. His advertisement reproduced here dates from around 1820.

The photographs of the fine English ball reservoir air rifle, made by James Cook, come courtesy of *Airgun World* reader Mr Charles Horne.

The rifle has a 30 ins. tapered barrel with poly-grooved rifling, and an approximate 10 mm calibre. This barrel is a particularly fine specimen — it's damascus, with a hexagonal to round section, brass sight and a 'sunburst' engraved on the top of the hexagon. It has a fine pattern typical of the better barrels. It never ceases to amaze me how the old barrel makers rifled them by hand to produce such beautiful results.

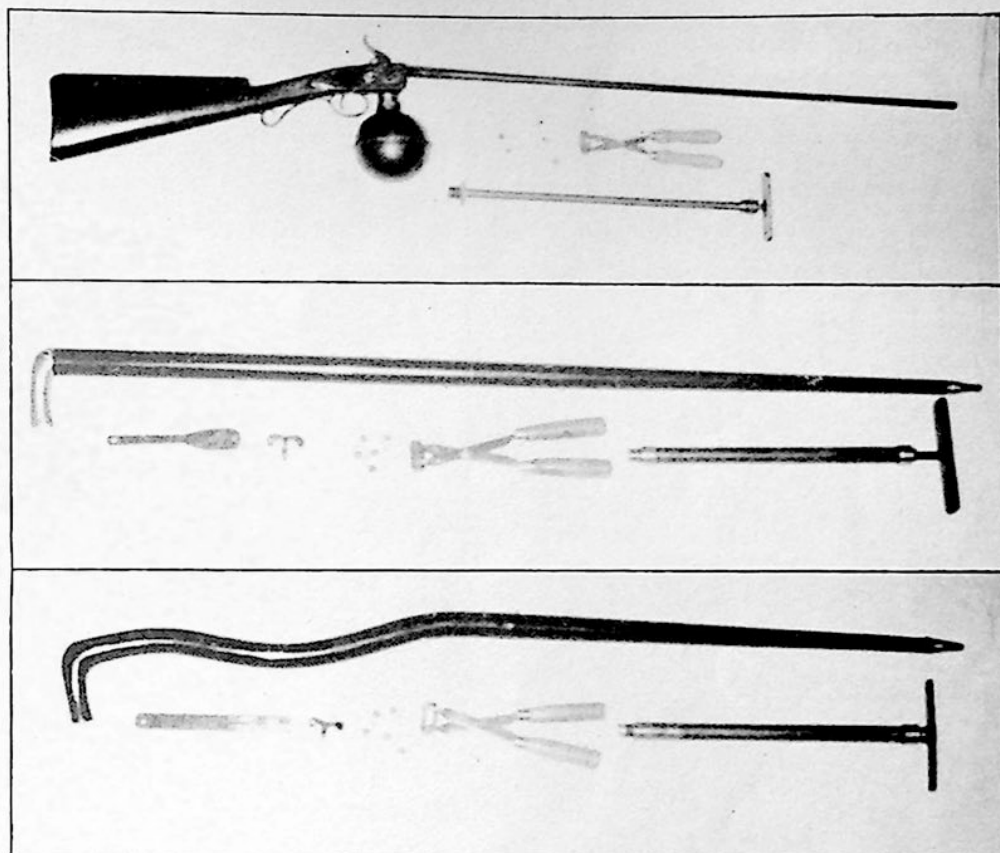
The barrel unscrews from the receiver, and has been made so accurately that the flats to the barrel and receiver align perfectly when tightened.

Mr Horne tells me that the air rifle balance is so good that when the ball rests in the palm of the hand the rifle settles neatly into the shoulder.

This Cook rifle is in excellent condition, and the photos show the fine engraving on the signed receiver, cocking hammer, and screws. The trigger guard is engraved too.

The piece is stocked in walnut, has a steel ball and breech loads by way of a roller tap. The system of breech closure used on this, and many other antique air rifles, exactly reproduces the rotating breech plug of modern tap-loading airguns.

As the original charging pump and bullet mould are missing, a modern pump and scissor mould have been made. Mr Horne also sent me specimen ball ammunition and bullets which have been cast to fit the rifle, plus two flattened bullets he recently fired



Top: James Cook's ball reservoir rifle with a replacement bullet mould and pump.

Centre: (Figure 2) An English air-cane and pump.

Bottom: (Figure 3) A crank-shape or crooked air-cane.

at a steel plate. On close examination the rifling marks tally, and Vic Nelson has photographed them against a matchbox to give you some idea of scale.

You can imagine that in its heyday the gun could have been pumped to about 800 strokes, providing some 20 shots. This would have resulted in the first bullets fired being completely shattered. Full pumping was sensibly avoided on this occasion, however, because of the risks of metal fatigue in old air weapons.

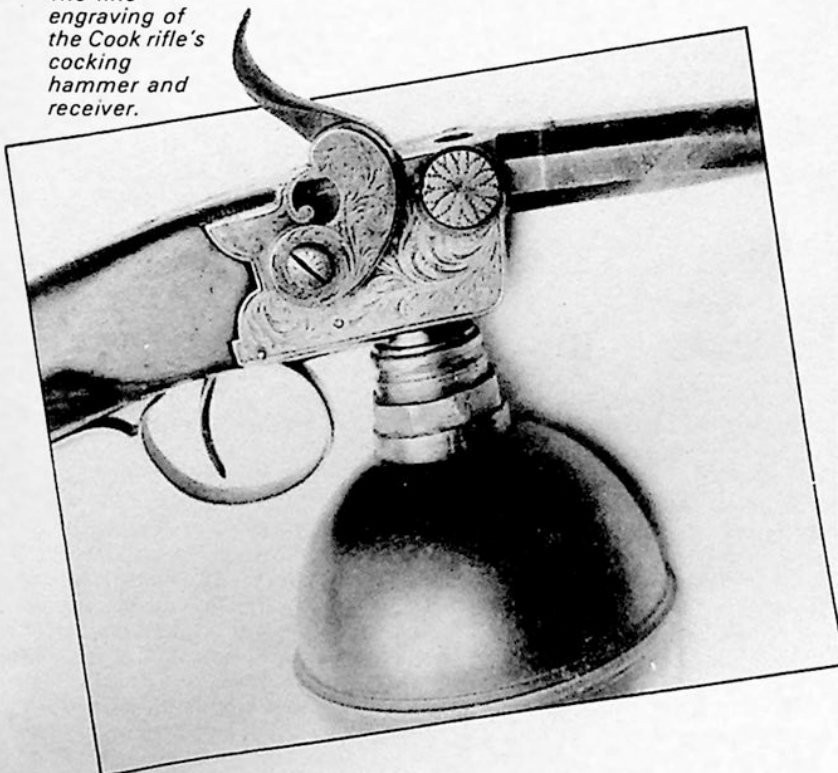
The very first ball reservoirs were all-

copper, which, being malleable, are more likely to rip open rather than splinter in the event of an explosion.

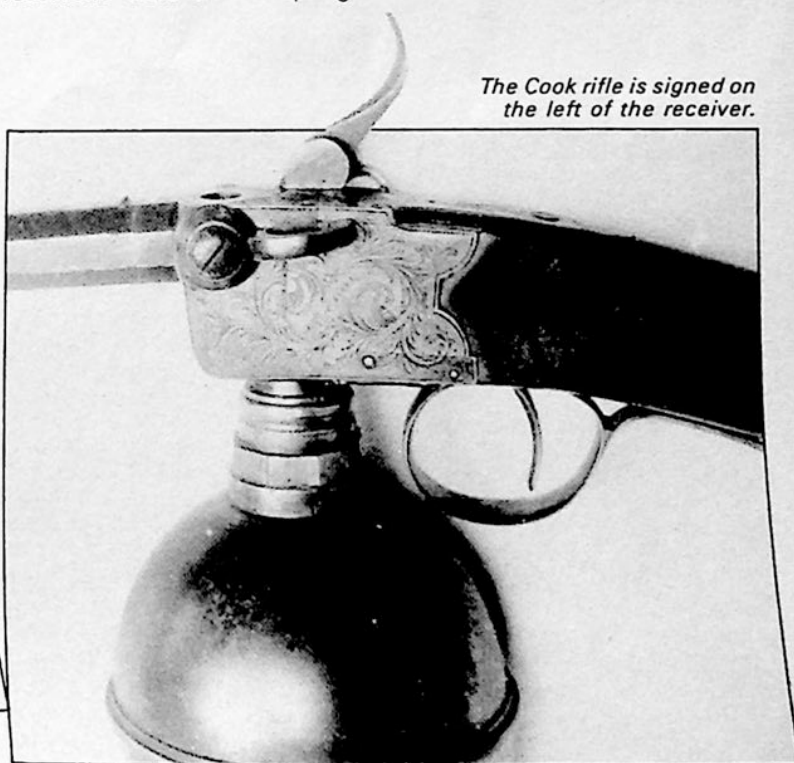
Later versions had either bronze, iron or steel globes which, although having greater tensile strength, would splinter like a grenade if there was an explosion!

This gun is the only ball reservoir air rifle made by James Cook that I've ever seen, although an airgunsmith named Cook invented a coil-spring airgun lock for an air-cane when others still used the leaf-type flat spring.

The fine engraving of the Cook rifle's cocking hammer and receiver.



The Cook rifle is signed on the left of the receiver.



The action of this lock — which has an undated patent — is very similar to a device Cook used with percussion cane guns, which he patented in England in 1824 (pat. no. 4960). I imagine this is the same Cook as the maker of the fine rifle in the photographs.

This antique air rifle has now been sold to an American collector, but Mr Horne and I agreed that this piece should not depart before it had been photographed and documented in *Airgun World*.

I dearly hope that our American friends exhibit this piece to as wide an audience as possible. I feel that in the U.K. far too many works of art that are part of our heritage are locked in bank vaults and not where the public can admire them.

I hope that in the future the best items from my collection, and those of my friends, might be put on permanent view where enthusiasts can see and appreciate them.

Examples of Cook's patent air-cane airgun, fitted with coil springs to activate the lock, are very rare now. Originals are marked 'Cook's Patent 266', and the key has to be turned through 180 degrees to cock, instead of the usual quarter-turn with other air-cane models.

Air-cane makers such as Townsend, Reilly, Blisset, Blanche, Fletcher, and Harrison, to name but a few, used the more common leaf-type flat spring, which compressed when the action was cocked by a detachable key.

Walking stick airguns were widely used in Britain only during the 19th century, although a few had been made in Germany from as early as 1700.

They were very expensive at first, but cheaper variations gained in popularity from 1900 to the beginning of the First World War — but by this time spring operated air rifles had swamped the market.

Most English air-canes are of the 'straight' type shown in Figure 2. This specimen is 36 ins. long and has a .32 calibre. It is a breech loading air-cane gun with a genuine pump, but the mould and key are modern replacements.

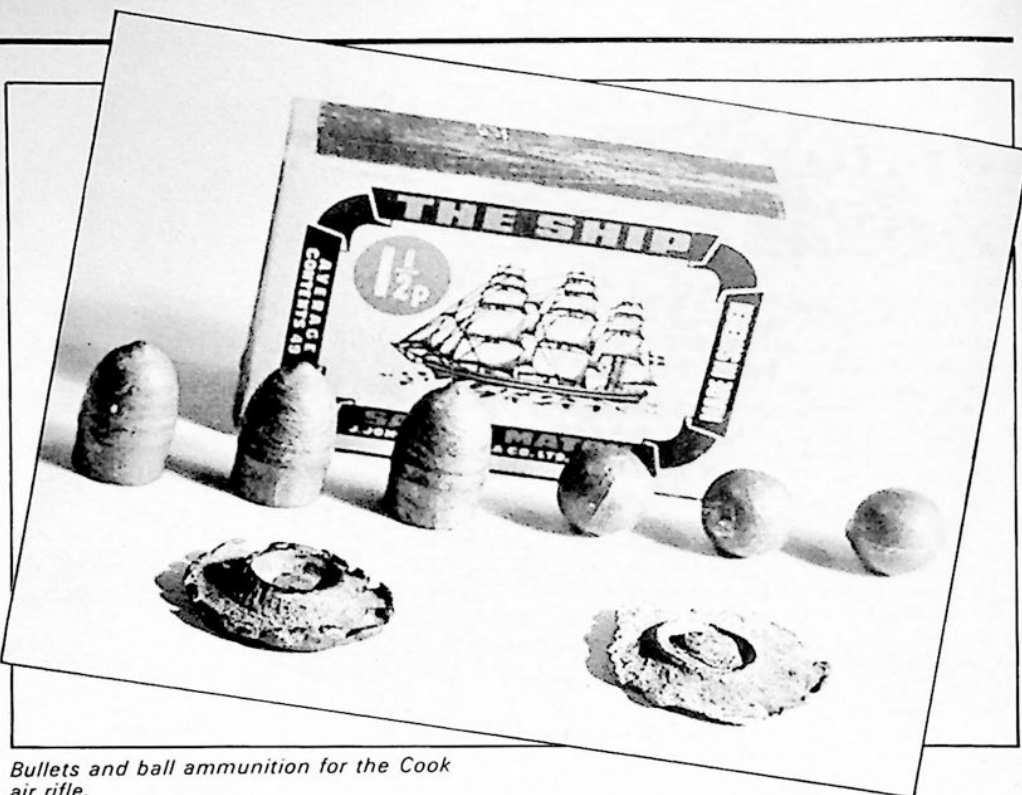
The second specimen, shown in Figure 3, is a bent, or cranked, English airgun cane, probably made by Cogswell of London. It's the same length and calibre as the straight model. It's also a breech loader, and again the bullet mould and cocking key are replacements.

Far fewer of these crank-shaped canes were made because of the extra work and cost of making the air reservoir to the more complex shape. It was this shape that enabled the cane to be fired from the shoulder like a conventional rifle.

I can't really see the point of the crank-shape because there was no need to fire them from the shoulder as the small calibre meant there was very little recoil. They lost their walking stick disguise due to their odd shape, too.

Air-canes divide by unscrewing the two halves — the forepart contains the lock, barrel, breech, and a ferrule and tip, or combined ramrod and barrel cap. If it's a muzzle loader, the ramrod is stored in the barrel. The lock parts had to be very compact to be concealed within the external cover in order to give the impression of a normal walking stick. This superb miniature work must have added greatly to the production costs.

The casing has a round port for the key which operates the tumbler. This, in turn, causes the pop-out trigger to protrude like a



Bullets and ball ammunition for the Cook air rifle.

stud when the gun is cocked. This is a dangerous arrangement as the trigger is left unguarded.

Later air-canes have sights which can be pulled off a stud or unscrewed, and they don't need to be removed when the weapon is being dismantled. To take the lock and barrel out of earlier models, however, it's sometimes necessary to unscrew the sights with a pair of pliers.

After the sights have been detached, only a careful examination would convince you that the cane was anything other than a harmless walking stick.

To dismantle the cane you make sure that the reservoir has been unscrewed. Then you unscrew the brass tip, the ramrod, and the liner. Rifled barrels inside the large, smooth bores have a milled edge close to the muzzle which can be unscrewed with your fingers. Then the threaded ring is removed and the trigger stud pressed in and held. The barrel — with attached internal lock — can be pushed out of the breech by giving it a smart tap on the protruding end. The lock is very often signed and numbered by the maker.

If the cane is a breech loader, you unscrew the finger stud on the rotating port and the sleeve slides out with the rest of the internal works.

The air reservoir and valve are in the rear section, and can be screwed onto a separate air charging pump. Most of the air-cane pumps I've seen are finely made, with a metal plunger — minus leather bushings — working directly in the bore.

While the inside of most air-canes are similar, the exteriors come in a variety of finishes — depending on the price. Reilly's cheaper canes were, for instance, japanned a black or rattan colour, while his more expensive range were finished in japan, rattan or malacca to simulate wild growths.

The canes also came smoothly polished or browned, to show off the reservoir's fine

stub twist. Other makers painted their canes to resemble bamboo, or imitated a knobbly, rough wood finish on the casing in order to make them look like walking sticks. Many were furnished with round horn knobs, while others had horn, ivory or silver crook handles.

The cheaper canes were muzzle loaders, but in the higher price range a rifled barrel for ball was often available to slide inside the large, smooth shot barrel.

A revolving breech, which opened to receive the ball and thereby saved ramming, was another available extra at the top end of the market. These canes were invariably 1 1/4 ins. in diameter at the valve area.

There were small muzzle and breech loading canes of 3/4 in., 7/8 in., and 1 in. diameter, but they were generally fitted with rifled barrels for shooting only ball.

In these walking sticks we can also see the final stage in the evolution of the airgun cocking-hammer mechanism. Starting with the crude outside lock, there is a progression through the elegant flintlock, the frizzen and pan — with the cock operating internal components to trip and release an interval air valve — and onto the half-flint with no frizzen or pan. Then came James Cook's innovation of an external spanning, or cocking lever, and then this in turn was overtaken and replaced by the air-canes' simple removable key.

One thing I should point out is that the air-canes in my photographs are Class 1 firearms and the police would not encourage us to use them for self-defence these days!

Sources: *Air-Guns and Air Pistols*, by L. Wensley in 1955. *Air Guns*, by E. G. Wolff in 1958. *Airguns and other Pneumatic Arms*, by A. Hoff in 1972. *Air Gun Digest*, by R. Beeman in 1977. *Air Guns, Air Canes and Air Weapons*, by E. M. Reilly in 1850.

Acknowledgements: My thanks to Charles G. Horne, Mike Gaskill and Ray Hill.



100 pages of
great tests
and tips!

- Arthur Shepherd
- John Avon
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AIRGUN AMMO

IN PAST articles on the old chestnut of hunting ammunition I've discussed both the merits of different calibres and the effect various shaped pellets have on animals.

I've criticised the quality of the majority of pellet manufacture which is on today's market — it's a message that has been put across most strongly.

But an airgun pellet manufacturer's life is not a happy one, though. They have the headache of ensuring that their products not only compete in terms of value for money, but also in quality, too.

This is easily achieved when the machinery at the factories are new. But as time goes on the dies begin to wear away, and naturally the pellets eventually fall below the company's standards.

Replacing dies, and other machinery parts for that matter, is an expensive business. So, to remain competitive, many pellet manufacturers will squeeze as much ammo out of the machines as possible — before replacing the dies becomes a necessity.

By this time, however, batches of possibly sub-standard pellets may well have been distributed to gunshops and other outlets scattered around the country. For instance, the samples I presented last month were randomly selected from tins and were certainly not searched for.

The offending pellets were macro-photographed and the flaws that this

Fred Grimwade

process revealed would have been nearly impossible to detect with the naked eye. Nevertheless, in my opinion these defects make most of the ammunition decidedly erratic in flight.

I'm not for one minute suggesting that any pellet manufacturer is unscrupulous, because the facts governing these sort of actions are a simple case of economics. Another contributing factor is that some pellets are damaged during packaging or transit.

The pellets are made of soft lead — which doesn't help — as this allows the skirt to expand in the air rifle or pistol bore for safety reasons. A dropped tin also often means that pellets are damaged in one way or another.

There is no short term answer to this problem, except re-shaping the pellets with a pellet sizer, which I will discuss in more detail next month.

Another solution is to buy individually packed match pellets, which are made to a very high standard. The only drawback here, though, is that it's an expensive exercise. It also inspires the question: Just how suitable are these wadcutters for hunting?

These costly wadcutters are of the highest quality, but designed specifically for target shooting — not hunting. The flat head cuts a neat swage through the air, keeping the pellet on course. The added advantage is that it also punches a neat hole in the target card, too, making the scoring that much easier.

At the other end of the scale is the pointed pellet. This is employed by most hunters, but it will never be as accurate as a wadcutter, although it does have the advantage of added penetration.

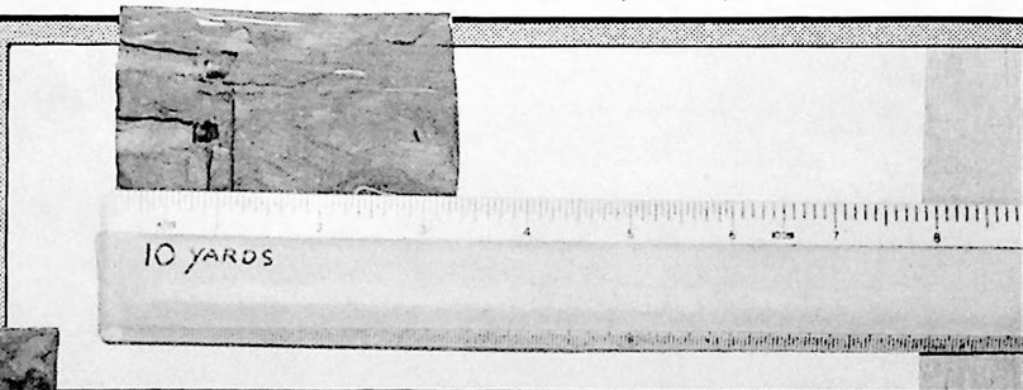
This may seem like I'm stating the obvious, but seeing is believing and although we can work it out mathematically it's far more interesting to establish the 'obvious' with a practical test or two!

Figure 1 shows a pointed pellet and a wadcutter fired into a block of plasticine from 10 yards. As you can see, there's not a lot in the penetration differential. In fact, for hunting, the wadcutter would probably produce a greater shock to an animal's nervous system at this sort of range.

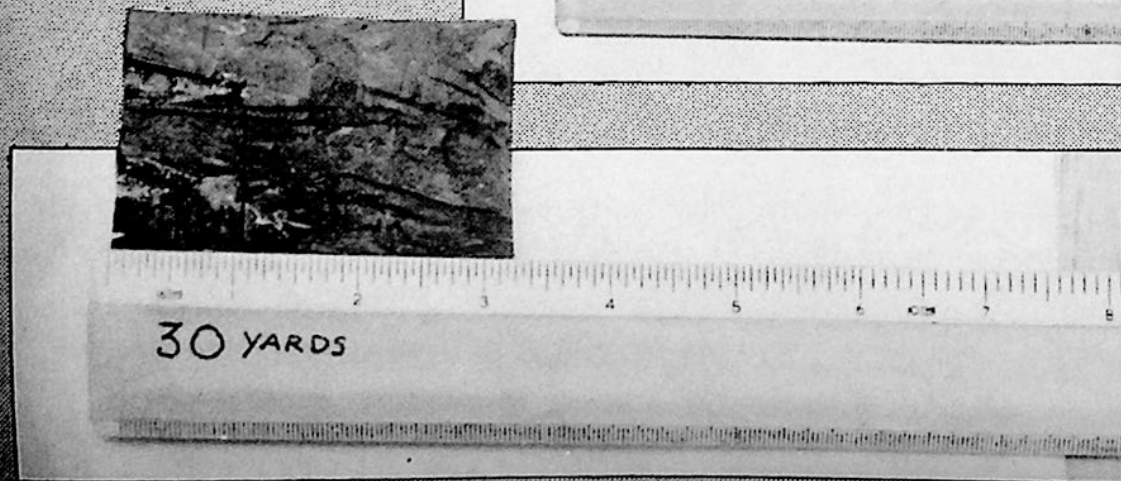
But of course either pellet at this range is a potential killer.

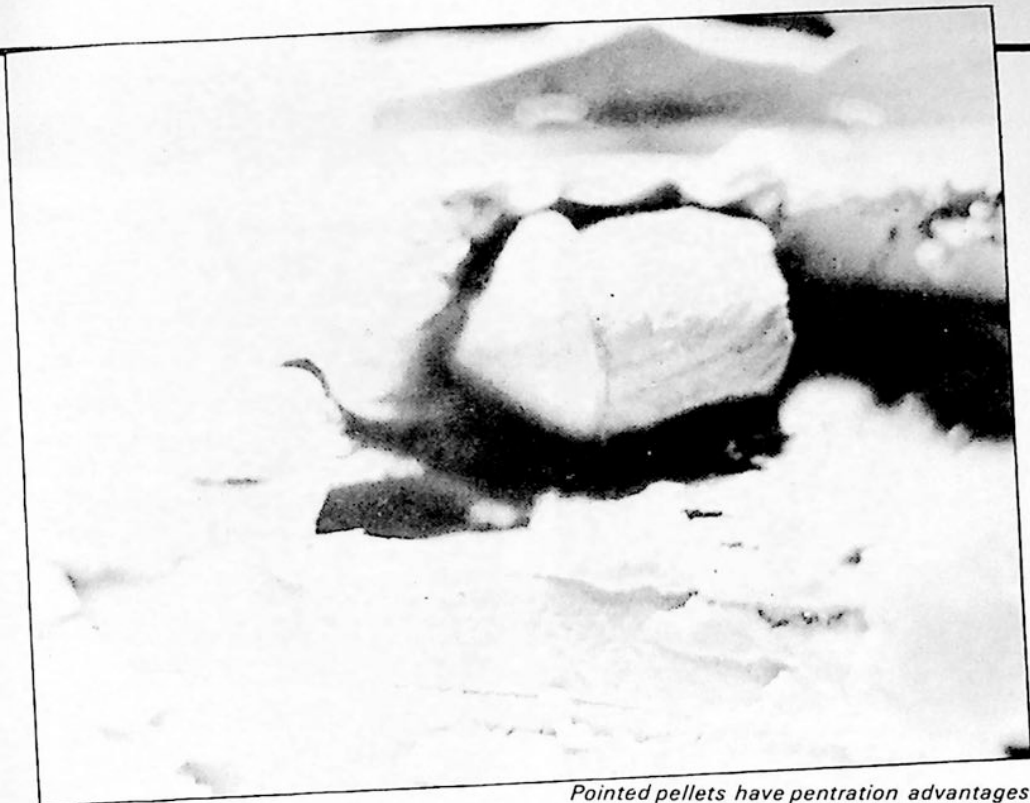
A dramatic change takes place in Figure 2, though. At 30 yards the wadcutter has drastically slowed down in the air before reaching its target. Its velocity is reduced so much that the 'shocking' potential is no advantage over the pointed pellet now.

Right: Figure 1. Little penetration difference between the two pellets.



Left: Figure 2. The wadcutter has slowed considerably.





Pointed pellets have penetration advantages but each point must be perfect.

However, both are still capable of despatching rabbits at this range, but up to this range with powerful rifles, the wadcutter still has a slight edge with its superior accuracy.

Two facts should be noted from the macro-photos of the plasticine blocks. Both pellets have been crushed, and all

the material from the two cavities has disappeared into nowhere!

You would expect that most of this plasticine 'debris' would have been pushed to the front of the pellet, but closer examination proves this is not the case. Unfortunately cutting the block removes some of the evidence, but the bulk of it has simply expanded outwards, making the block slightly bigger.

This effect on plasticine can be directly translated as shock in terms of quarry — pressure waves moving quickly from the cavity. The greater the pressure, the larger the effect on the nervous system of an animal. Of course, this is presuming that your pellet strikes the part of the body that can be effected by shock — not the ears or tail, for example.

A bullet from a .22 rifle with an energy of 50 ft. lbs. at a 30-yard range is enough to kill an animal with shock and not create massive tissue damage.

An airgun at this range, though, possesses only 6 ft. lbs. and so the hunter must be a good shot and select either the heart or head as the target to ensure an instantly clean kill.

Many shooters kid themselves that the range of their rifle is far greater than it really is because they've had a lucky shot and bagged a rabbit or the like from a great distance. But for clean kills every time, you need the best equipment, quality ammo and skilled marksmanship.

Pointed pellets have penetration advantages over wadcutters, such as the hollow point, but because of their fickle nature — each point must be perfect — they are less accurate and the further the range, the greater the error.

To be confident of clean kills at a 50 yards range, a hunter needs a pellet that will be equally accurate at 10 yards, and furthermore it must be aerodynamic, or as I like to call it: 'A good aeroplane'! Penetration is another factor, of course.

Unfortunately, in my opinion, this pellet doesn't exist at the moment and the hunter has to resort to individually sorting and sizing pellets to reach his exact standards.

My run of articles on this controversial subject has been well received. I have a fine blade. Scabbard. £13.95 to achieve my aim. I am sure.



For clean kills you need skilled marksmanship as well as quality ammo.



CLUBS

Whiscombe Sits it Out

Successful, outdoor shooter John Whiscombe, who prefers to shoot prone, was forced to sit down on the job at Queen Elizabeth's College, Leatherhead, during a NARPA Field Target Shooting Championship heat.

Whiscombe adopted an unfamiliar sitting position because of the rough terrain and gusting winds, but still shot a magnificent 20 ex 24 to take first place.

Craig Crosby, who made his name at the 1982 Bisley Speed Shoot, was runner-up, just pipping Barry Griffiths by virtue of a quicker time. Medals were presented to the top 20 competitors and Graham Barker won the re-entry competition.

Dave Welham, who is so rarely out of the prizes, didn't leave disappointed. He won the speed shoot with a full house at a maximum 35 yards in just 26 seconds. Lee Fowler finished only a second behind to claim second place.

Basingstoke ARC organised pigeon and long range shoots. Barry Griffiths beat Terry Wheeler into second place in the pigeon event while Whiscombe edged out John Howard to win the long range competition.



The prize winners at the Basingstoke field shoot.

Terry's On Top!

Terry Wheeler continued his airgunning successes this year with a victory in the Knockdown Target competition during the Basingstoke ARC's field shoot at Dawn Grange.

Using a Weihrauch HW35 that he won only the week before, Terry scored a superb 22 ex 25 to take first prize, which was a 'Riflescope'.

Terry's win, however, was a very close run affair with only seconds separating him from Vic Dolby and John Howard, who finished second and third respectively.

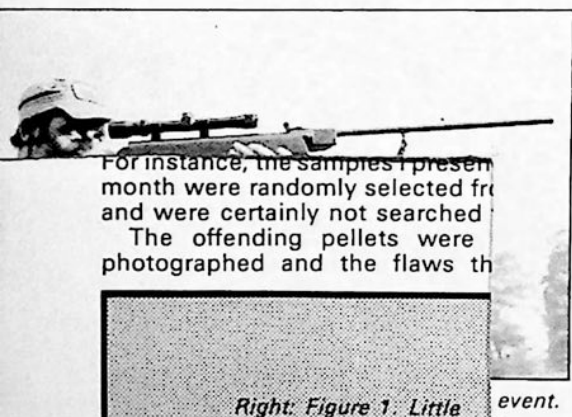
Tessa Lunn won the ladies' event while Clive Welham yet again proved to be the top junior.

The Turning Target event proved very popular and attracted a high standard of shooting. Ian Law took first prize with 140 ex 150 after failing to squeeze off his first shot during the first six seconds when the target was exposed. Dave Welham finished second and Terry Wheeler third.

Syd Street won the Decoy Pigeon event using his Weihrauch 80, with Les Neil taking the runner-up position and Terry Wheeler third again.



Jayne Dobby adopting her unusual style.



For instance, the samples I present month were randomly selected from and were certainly not searched.

The offending pellets were photographed and the flaws then

Right: Figure 1. Little event.



The consistent Whiscombe always looked a winner.

Target Champions

The Midlands Air Weapons Target Championships were held at the Aston University Sports Hall in Birmingham during September.

The 2 X 40-shot rifle and pistol events used 30 firing points which were equipped with Dicol automatic target changers.

The double course attracted a large entry for the four rifle and pistol classes. In addition there was a 10 metres running boar national championship organised by the British Sporting Rifle Club.

RESULTS.

10-metre rifle. Class X: 1. R. Churchill, 2. Mrs I. Daw, 3. A. King. Class 'A': 1. S. Cotterill, 2. A. French, 3. J. Law. Class 'B': 1. T. Williams, 2. R. King, 3. J. Stevens. Class 'C': 1. Mrs S. McHugh, 2. N. Smith, 3. J. Jay. Ladies: Mrs I. Daw. Juniors: A. King.

10-metre pistol. Class 'A': 1. R. McLester, 2. D. Attrill, 3. D. Chapman. Class 'B': 1. J. Maddison, 2. P. Mullis, 3. P. Last. Class 'C': 1. D. Clarke, 2. W. Plunden, 3. N. Williamson. Ladies: Mrs C. Ashcroft. Juniors: D. Chapman.

10-metre running boar: 1. D. Ashcroft, 2. P. Lowe, 3. J. Maddison.

Combined aggregate for rifle and pistol: 1. I. Law. Pairs competition: 10-metre rifle: 1. Mrs I. Daw and A. King. 10-metre pistol: 1. R. Brown and D. Attrill.



Bob Churchill on his way to victory in the 10-metre Elite Class.



Teenage

SPECIAL

INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SHOOTING NEWS!

What a Start!

The Windmill Hill Field Shooting Club held their first ever airgun competition at Runcorn in Cheshire and the club chairman, Mr. L. Banlin, says the shoot was a marvellous success.

Mr. Banlin won the competition with A. Yates runner-up and R. Bebbington close behind in third place. Anyone interested in joining this Cheshire club should ring Mr. Banlin on Runcorn 710167.



John Whiscombe using the 'old rope trick'.

All smiles for the prize winners at the Leatherhead shoot.



John Maddison tracking down the running boar.

Welsh Wizards

The first-ever outdoor shoot organised by the Ynysowen ARC attracted nearly 70 entries and a very high standard of shooting.

Stourvale Woodsman Richard North won the main shoot, which consisted of a 30-shot course. Rob Allcock was the runner-up and Ian Watkins, of the Blaenau, Gwent, club finished third.

Watkins clinched his third place after a shoot-off with Newport's Karen Pask. Karen, however, didn't go home disappointed because she won the juniors' class.

Richard North repeated his success in the speed shoot competition with John Parker second and Ian Watkins third. B. Butlin won the pistol shoot with Bob Wilkins and Charlie Fenn in second and third places respectively.

As a break from airguns, the club put on a clay pigeon competition which was won by Rob Allcock.

Anyone who wants to join this exciting new club should contact Ynysowen ARC by ringing 0443 691601.

Potter's Impact!

The competition for the Chris Potter Shield was dominated by members of the Colne Valley Airgun Club at Wellbrook Farm recently.

The Colne Valley members took the first three places in the Hunter Shoot thanks to some sharp shooting by winner Robert Eady, second placed Bruce Arthy and Brian Eady.

The Chris Potter Shield was claimed by Colne Valley's Austin Bonnett, who was victorious in the bird shoot. Last year's Shield winner was John Breeds.

Social Shooting

The Studley Road Social Club's air rifle section is to hold their annual open shoot on December 4. The competition will include both bell and target events.

For further details contact Mr. K. Simmons of 29 Ferneyhill Avenue, Redditch, Worcestershire, and please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

The B.A.S.C. Column



What Campaign Reaction?

WHEN the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1982 was being passed through Parliament it was understood that the Home Office would be mounting a publicity campaign on airgun misuse.

At the time, the Association was concerned that this campaign would focus only on the negative side of airguns and not make a positive attempt to educate and correct the average airgunner.

Thankfully the Home Office has agreed to co-operate with the BASC, and so far the results have been very encouraging. But it remains to be seen what the Press and public reaction will be when the campaign is launched next month.

This is where BASC members can help. We'd like to hear about the reaction to our campaign in your area and possibly get the answers to such questions as: Does it present a fair picture of the responsible airgunner? Or, does it slam enthusiasts because of a small minority? Keep in touch and let us know!

Caerphilly's Expanding

CAERPHILLY Air Rifle and Pistol Club is branching out and starting an outdoor section using knock-down silhouette targets.

For three years now the Caerphilly club has organised regular indoor shoots and successfully competed in their local bell target league.

There's certainly no lack of enthusiasm on the club's part, but they are struggling to find a suitable site for their outdoor shooting ranges.

The club would greatly appreciate any aid that a BASC member can offer to help solve this problem, possibly through contacts with sympathetic farmers or landowners in the Caerphilly area.

If you can help, please contact committee member John Fenn of 3 Rhuddlaw Court, Hendredenny, Caerphilly, Mid-Glamorgan.

Spreading the Gospel

THE FIRST Universities Campaign for Country Sports meeting was hosted by the Worcester Hunt and presided over by their chairman David...

It was a blade. Scabbard. £13.95

The member means determg. sport and establishes national organisations, is able to contribute at both national and local levels.

The B.A.S.C.'s Development Education Officer, Gerry Turner, was at the meeting and reports that there is great enthusiasm and determination to gain wider support and more accurate representation than is given at the moment.

The formation of school air rifle and pistol clubs is a good way in which students can be introduced to field shooting and it allows parents and teachers to become involved, too. Any schools interested in starting their own club can contact Gerry Turner at the BASC's Marford Mill headquarters for further information and advice.

Added Attraction

THE BASC is to sponsor a prize at the British Open Field Target Shoot at Hipscombe Farm, Wiltshire, on October 30. The third highest scoring BASC member at the event will receive a tankard.

This makes this exciting new venture even more of an attraction for our members.

Please send me your latest Brochure featuring Airguns, Ammo, Camouflage Clothing, Ponchos, Headgear, Trousers, Torches, Knives, Compasses, Knapsacks, Camo netting, Scarves and much more, I enclose with this voucher one large envelope with my address and two unattached 16p stamps.

Signed.....
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7" Black heavy duty blade with brown leather hilt, complete with black scabbard and integral sharpening stone.

£6.85 + 75p P&P

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15" BOLO BLADE



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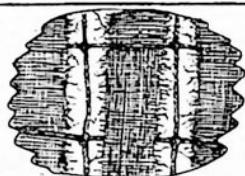
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HESSINET

British-made camouflage netting. Manufactured from 'rustle-free' olive hessian. Strong quality, can be cut to shape. 4" square construction.

12' x 6' **£11.38**

9' x 6' **£9.62**

(P&P 50p per net)

For instance, the samples I present month were randomly selected from and were certainly not searched for.

The offending pellets were photographed and the flaws then



OLIVE OR CAMO

Right: Figure 1. Little



'T' HUNTER BALACLAVA

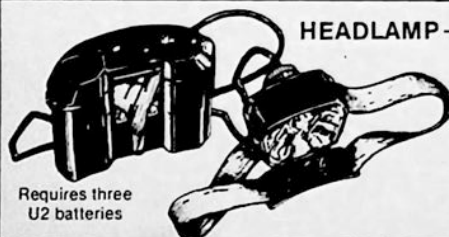
Double skinned for thermal warmth. Offers maximum facial cover. 100% Olive acrylic. Universal size.

£3.80 + 35p P&P

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Functional thermal cap manufactured from 100% cotton with quilted lining and fur effect ear and neck flap. Finished in British leaf pattern camouflage. Washable. (Alternatively finished in Olive drab.) S, M or L.

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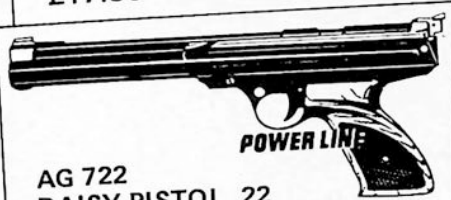
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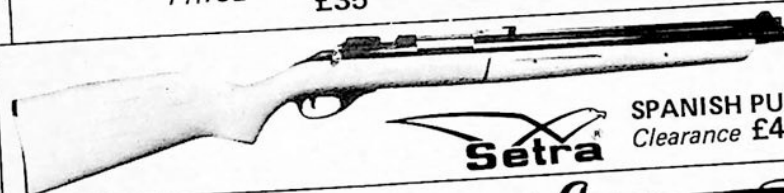
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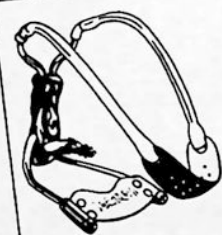
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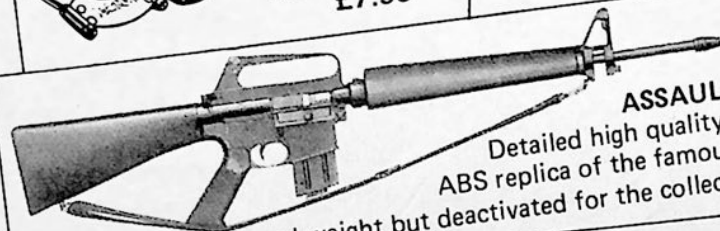
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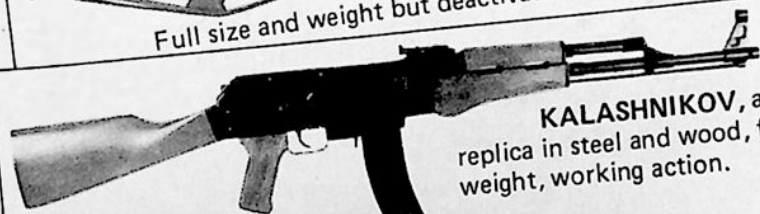
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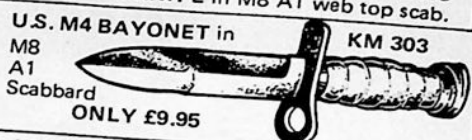
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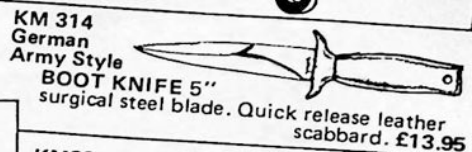
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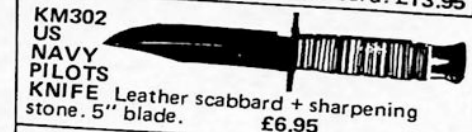
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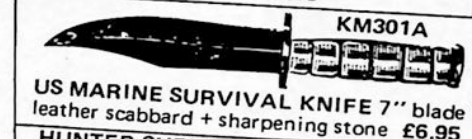
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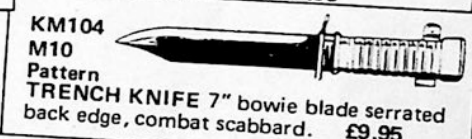
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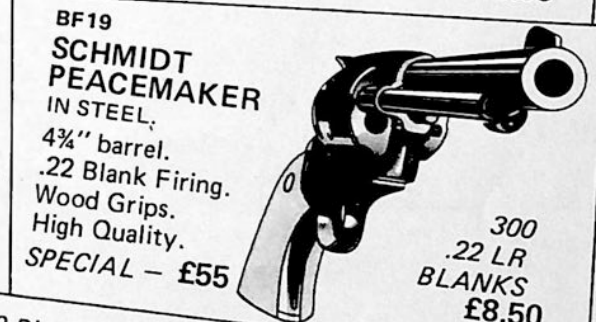
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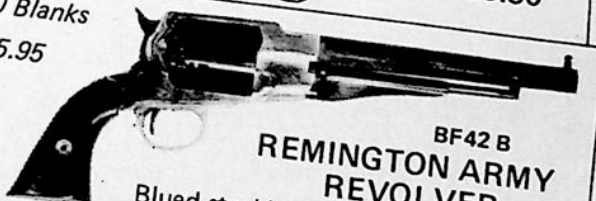
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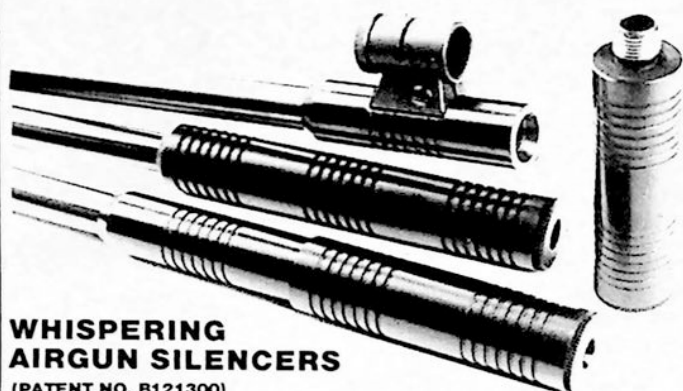
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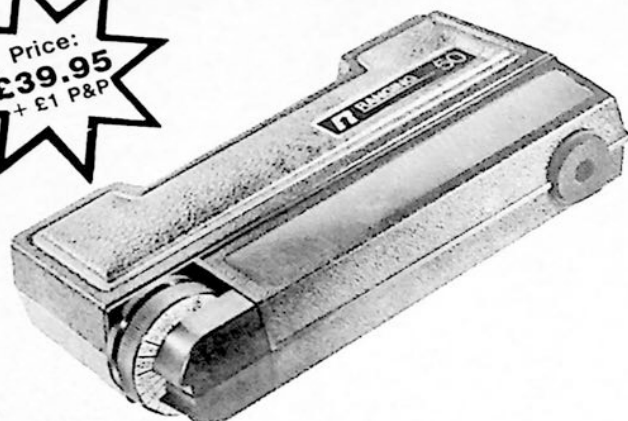
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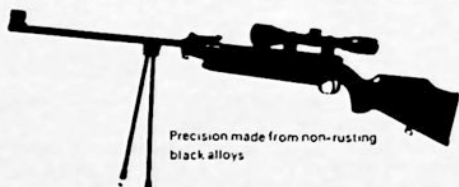
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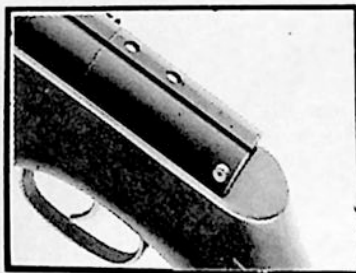
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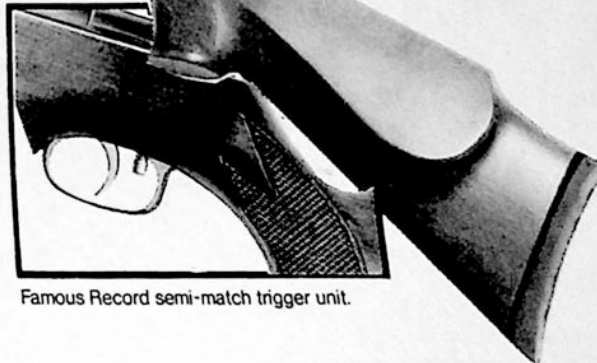
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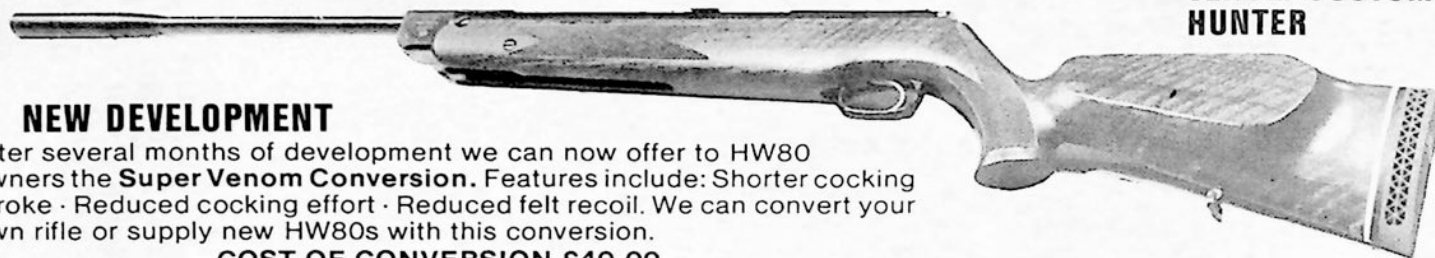
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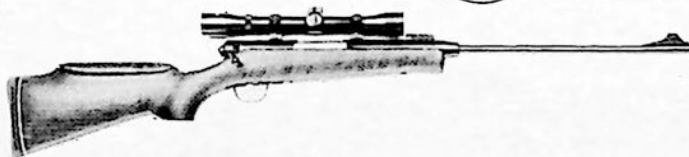
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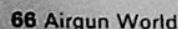
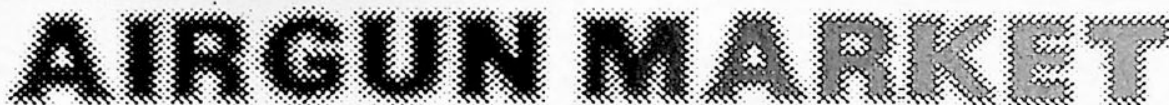
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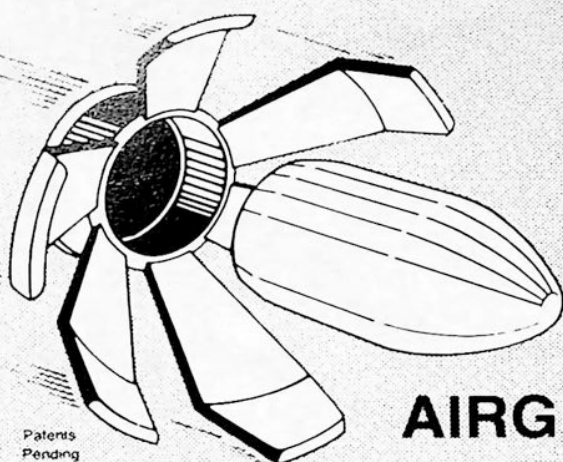
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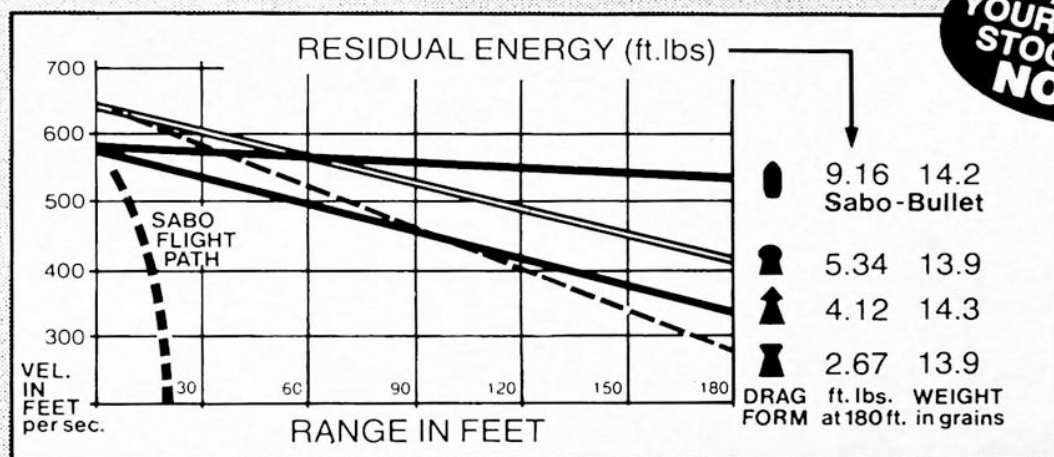
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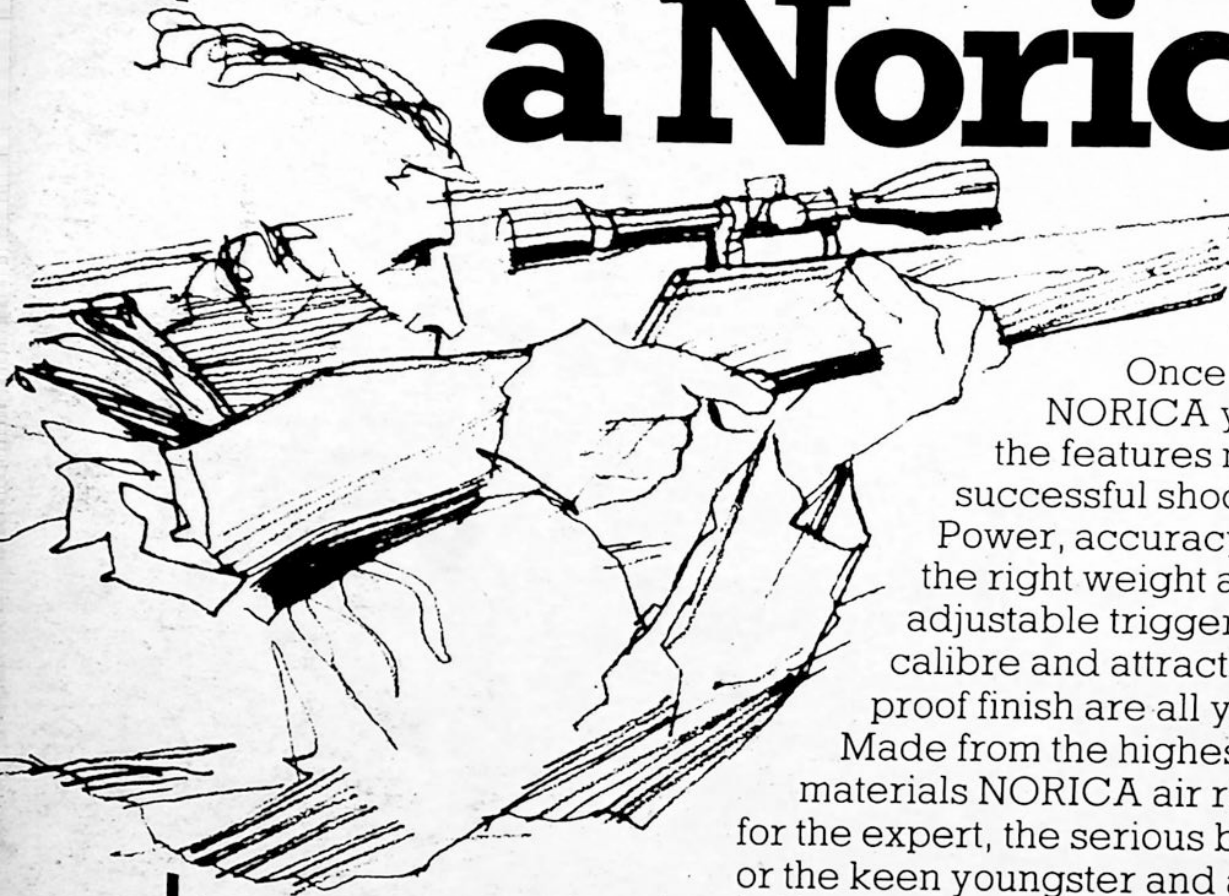
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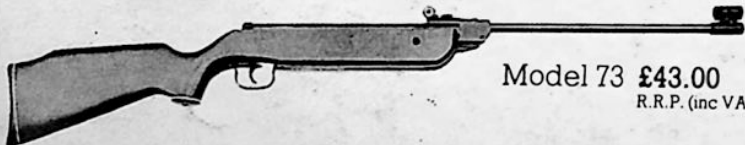
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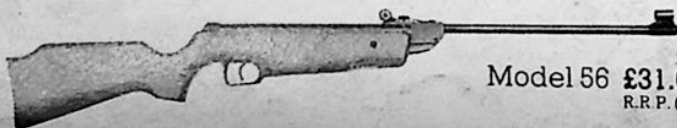
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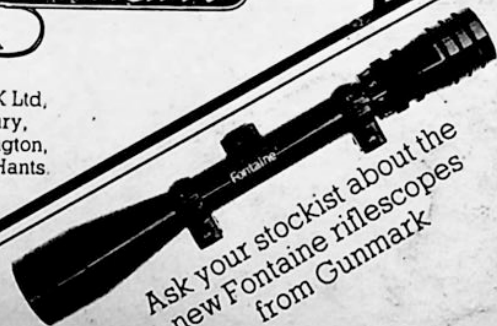


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